FBIS DAILY REPORT

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Vol VI No 098 *18 May 1984*

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PRESS NOTES DE LA MADRID-REAGAN MEETING

FL171602 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0014 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 16 May (NOTIMEX) -- The Argentine press today noted that there were disagreements between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and U.S. President Ronald Reagan during their first meeting.

Members of the Argentine Parliament responded to this news with renewed open and unreserved support for the position of Mexico and the Contadora Group. When consulted by NOTIMEX, however, the legislators admitted that the increasing consensus among Latin American countries in favor of the negotiated solutions recommended by Contadora is not enough, bearing in mind that the political climate does not favor peace on the isthmus.

Meanwhile, the Buenos Aires press devoted ample space to reports on the first meeting between Presidents Miguel de la Madrid and Ronald Reagan. The dailies mentioned the meeting: The newspaper TIEMPO ARGENTINO pointed out the disagreement between the United States and Mexico over Central America. Ronald Reagan and De la Madrid met in Washington and were unable to settle the differences.

LA NACION said: The United States and Mexico Condemn Intervention.

LA VOZ, the daily of the progressive sectors of Peronism, said in a headline that De la Madrid raised his voice and demanded that Reagan respect nonintervention in Central America.

LA PRENSA's headline said: De la Madrid Asked That Reagan Give More Attention to the Economic Crisis than to Central America.

Finally, CLARIN said the Mexican president's advice for all countries on the continent was to do everything possible to reestablish peace and avoid war on the isthmus. CLARIN also pointed out that as De la Madrid was meeting with Reagan, Democratic presidential candidate Walter Mondale was issuing harsh criticism of the Reagan administration for leading the United States headlong into war in Central America.

GRINSPUN BRIEFS SENATE ON FOREIGN DEBT

PY172318 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 May 84 p 1

[Text] In answer to Senate questions last night Economy Minister Bernardo Grinspun said the Argentine foreign debt amounts to 41.15 billion (thousand million) dollars, of which 13 billion, including 5.5 in interest, will fall due this year. The public sector debt is 27.431 billion dollars, while 13.719 billion are owed by the private sector, he added.

In his 90-minute briefing, the minister emphasized the government's "firm intention" to ensure that the debt be paid "first and foremost by those who incurred it during the period of open economy, namely the financial fatherland."

Second on the list will be "those with the greatest capacity" to pay, and "only then the workers," he said. Grinspun added that the debt would be "hanging over the heads of several generations of Argentines."

The government "has followed a clear and precise" course in foreign debt negotiations, Grinspun said, adding that "our negotiations have always been open and above board, without any type of concealment." The letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "will be signed within a few days," he told one senator.

Answering charges by Justicialist senators that presidential economic advisor Raul Prebish's negotiations with the IMF had duplicated and overshadowed his own efforts to reschedule the foreign debt, Grinspun claimed that the "memorandum of agreement" Prebisch signed with the IMF last March "was only a aide memoire and was in no way an official document." The Radical minister stressed that Prebisch's functions are purely advisory, rather than executive, but nevertheless praised his techical skills, leading Senate majority leader Vicente Saadi (Justicialist-Catamarca) to remark that "Doctor Prebisch has only contributed to the colonialization and slavery of peoples."

Grinspun insisted that the parameters for rescheduling negotiations had already been set by the government at 8.5 billion dollars in exports and five billion dollars in imports. He also repeated that gross national product (GNP) growth of five percent and real wage increases of between six and eight percent were further paramenters which are not negotiable because "they go to make up the the country's sovereignty."

The government's priority measure towards the payment of the debt is to "increase the influx of foreign currency, especially through agricultural and cattle exports and import substitution, as far as this is technically and economically feasible," the minister said.

Acknowledging that the Argentine economy is in "fragile condition," the minister explained that the foreign debt is equal to 60 percent of GNP, of which seven to eight percent corresponds to interest.

After giving a detailed account of the interest and commissions charged by various international banks, Grinspun blasted "the interest rate hikes which have made United States prime interest rates rise by 1.5 percent since the middle of March, and the LIBOR rise by even more."

Warning that Argentina intends to pay only the "legitimate" portion of the foreign debt, Grinspun announced that the Central Bank "will not supply foreign currency" to meet obligations "in cases where the creditor and the debtor are one and the same person."

Grinspun was accompanied to Congress by his wife Eva, two of his sons, his secretary, and another 41 Economy Ministry officials and aides who helped him carry in the eight voluminous files and half a dozen books which he brought along as memory aids. The fact that the minister and his entourage added up to 46 people led Saadi to speculate that "he brought one for each senator, so that there would be no winners or losers (if it came to a vote)."

By press time last night Grinspun had answered 20 of the approximately 60 questions that had been prepared by the Justicialist caucus. After a one-hour adjournment, the Senate was expected to continue questioning the minister well into the night.

Questioned on Figures

PY171909 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0108 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 16 May (TELAM) -- On 31 December 1983, the Argentine foreign debt amounted to $41.15 billion, out of which $13,719,000,000 belonged to the private sector and $27,431,000,000 to the public sector. These figures were provided by Economy Mister Bernardo Grinspun during questioning today by the Senate.

The economy minister's report to the Senate lasted 1 hour and 20 minutes, concluding at 2030. Immediately after his report, Justicialist Senator from Salta Francisco Villada began the questioning by asking Grinspun to give the exact amount of the overall foreign debt and to break it up into the private and public sectors. Before disclosing the aforementioned figures, the economy minister made it clear that the amounts reported [by private firms] were being verified, adding that the amount verified on 14 May reached $8.5 billion. He reiterated that all figures provided by him were partial and that that the exact amount of the foreign debt would be known in a few weeks.

Regarding the debt of the public sector, Grisnpun said that 136 public firms had reported their debts and that some firms had yet to report. He said that this figure was estimated at about $2.8 billion. He added that $3.5 billion had to be added to the overall amount for items not taken into account, noting that this amount was subject to modification.

COLONELS PLACED AT SUPREME COUNCIL'S 'DISPOSAL'

PY170333 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 May 84 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- The Armed Forces Supreme Council yesterday placed three colonels at its "disposal" and heard testimony from retired General Mario Benjamin Menendez, the former military governor of the Malvinas Islands. At the same time, Colonel Jorge Gonzalez Ramirez announced he had resigned as the Council's secretary last Thursday and would also be leaving the Army in order to devote more time to the study of history.

Retired Colonels Juan Ramon Madragana and Ernesto Repossi and Air Force Colonel Wilson Pedrozo were placed at the disposal of the Council. Madragana and Repossi, commanders of the Fifth and Eight Infantry Brigades, respectively, were mentioned in the Rattenbach report on the Malvinas war as having "surrendered while still able to defend themselves," and are thus technically liable for the death penalty. Pedrozo, commander of the Port Darwin air base, was accused of having "surrendered without having exhausted his ammunition or lost two-thirds of his men."

The three officers testified for more than an hour yesterday. Lieutenant-Commander Alfredo Astiz, who commanded the Argentine forces in South Georgia, will reportedly testify tomorrow.

There are now 10 officers at the disposal of the Supreme Council for their part in the Malvinas war, including all three members of ex-President Leopoldo Galtieri's wartime junta. Menendez, one of the 10 officers, told reporters he had "done my duty, obeyed orders...and fought well" in the Malvinas. He also praised President Raul Alfonsin's Malvinas anniversary message on April 2 as "clear and positive." The former military governor was a victim of mistaken identity yesterday when a woman shouted at him "Remember La Perla," in a reference to the Cordoba detention camp allegedly run by former Third Army Corps commander, Luciano Benjamin Menendez.

Finally, the government is studying a proposal to assign some of the Supreme Council's powers to military judges, especially in cases involving human rights violations during the "dirty war" against leftwing subversion, reliable sources reported yesterday. It is allegedly argued that 4,000 cases, the number reportedly in the files of the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, is far too much work for a single court. The Supreme Council is also accused of having shown far more interest in the Malvinas war than in human rights cases.

JUDGE INVOLVED IN ISABEL PERON CASES RESIGNS

PY171330 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 May 84 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA) -- The government yesterday accepted the resignation of Federal Judge Norberto Giletta, who sentenced former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron to eight years in prison in the case of malversation of Solidarity Crusade funds, and recently handed down several controversial rulings involving Mrs Peron.

Amalia Berraz de Vidal will replace Giletta at the Federal Capital Criminal Court number 4. Giletta, who was appointed judge seven years ago during the administration of General Jorge Videla, had requested a leave of absence before resigning. But shortly before leaving he declared unconstitutional a government decree desisting from law suits against Mrs Peron and other persons included in the Institutional Acts signed by the military government. The government decree was in part aimed at pardoning a ten million dollar debt Mrs Peron had with the state as a result of her earlier conviction by Giletta in the Solidarity Crusade case.

Giletta also summoned Mrs Peron as a witness in the rebellion case against the three members of the former regime's first military junta, namely, General Videla, Air Force Brigadier Orlando Agosti, and Admiral Emilio Massera. But Judge Fegoli, who replaced Giletta when the latter went on leave, revoked the summons.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO ROK -- Buenos Aires, 2 May (TELAM) -- Juan Manuel Figuerero Antequeda has been appointed Argentine ambassador to the ROK. The appointment was made through Decree No 1,315, which was released today. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1851 GMT 2 May 84 PY]

NEW GDR AMBASSADOR -- Buenos Aires, 3 May (DYN) -- Horst Neumann, the new GDR ambassador to Argentina, today presented his credentials to President Raul Alfonsin. [Summary] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1740 GMT 3 May 84 PY]

MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH INDIA -- Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- Argentina and India this afternoon signed a maritime agreement whereby a regular shipping line is established between the east and west coasts of India and Argentina. The line will also cover other Latin American countries such as Brazil, Uruguay, and Paraguay. The agreement was signed by Argentine Shipping Lines President Rene Charpentier and Shipping Corporation of India Executive Director J. Mehta. [Summary] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0042 GMT 28 Apr 84 PY]

LABOR, POLITICAL UNREST THREATEN GOVERNMENT

COB Leaders Start Hunger Strike

PY171735 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2238 GMT 16 May 84

[By Adalid Cabrera Lemuz]

[Text] La Paz, 16 May (EFE) -- Today the leadership of the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) began a hunger strike against the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, demanding the resignation of the economic cabinet and the postponement of payment on the foreign debt to international banks. This drastic measure is part of several pressure tactics that the COB has decided to put into practice "down to the bitter end" against the democratic regime of Siles Zuazo, who has been accused of "being bought by the IMF." The labor leaders warned that "they will not give one inch" in their effort to force Siles Zuazo to substantially change the package of drastic economic measures approved on 12 April to face an economic crisis that is considered the worst in the last two decades.

The Siles regime has warned the labor unions that increasing social pressure and union disorder are seriously obstructing the constitutional process, which is being threatened by subversive groups, made up of military officers who were dismissed because of their links with drug traffic, and by rightist politicians.

The labor unions answered the government with an extensive document entitled "Condemning the People to Hunger Means Destabilizing the Democratic Process," emphasizing that "the executive branch is the only one responsible for creating the conditions for a coup with the approval of an economic policy that has created social discontent." The union leaders believe that the government is using the pretext of defending democracy as "blackmail" when the labor unions reproach its wrongful economic policies, policies that in the last 30 days have reduced the buying power of wages by 400 percent.

Juan Lechin Oquendo, the COB executive secretary, has said that the hunger strike which COB leaders began in La Paz today is the beginning of several similar measures to be carried out by union federations throughout the country aimed at carrying out an indefinite general strike. Lechin disregarded any possibility of resuming the dialogue with the executive branch if the ministers in the economic cabinet do not resign. The unions have accused these ministers of being accomplices of the IMF and "shameless defenders" of private enterprise.

Finance Minister Flavio Machicado, the brain behind the drastic economic measures, has already submitted his resignation to Siles Zuazo, although he explained that his resignation is not irrevocable but aimed at facilitating the resumption of dialogue between the executive branch and the unions. But the government has emphasized that it is not willing to give in to the union demands because they are "unreal." It called on the union leaders to search for points of agreement to safeguard democracy.

The current separation between the unions and the government is considered by politicians of different tendencies as "dangerous," and they predict a "grim future" for Bolivia if the current environment of social and political unrest continues to prevail.

Reliable government sources who asked not to be identified told EFE that Siles Zuazo has threatened to go on a hunger strike or resign to stop the union pressure on his government. The same sources indicated that the regime is not willing to repress the labor sectors, but that it will establish a principle of authority in the face of the "union anarchy," which has again paralized production in the country.

The union leaders indicated that the government has not been able to implement the economic measures of the drastic financial recovery plan because the employees of the Bolivian Central Bank are holding an indefinite general strike aimed at "obstructing" the government decision.

YPFB Operations Intervened

PY161900 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The democratic government of the Democratic and Popular Unity headed by Hernan Siles Zuazo has decided to intervene the facilities of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] to guarantee social peace and the normal development of national activities.

The facilities that have been intervened are the ones in Entre Rios in (Cementerios) and (Sencata) in El Alto. The intervention was carried out by members of the Bolivian police. A high official of the Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons confirmed the intervention by reading the following document:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified official] The national democratic government, using its legitimate powers granted by the Constitution and the laws to preserve national security, social peace, and guarantee the normal development of national activities and in view of obvious subversive plans to attack strategic YPFB installations creating serious risks to these facilities and to the integrity of workers and technicians of this state enterprise, has ordered the police forces to occupy the facilities of YPFB to guarantee the normal supply of fuel to the population and to protect the security of the workers and installations while negotiations with the labor unions continue to find a solution to the workers' salary demands, negotiations which will not be interrupted.

[Signed] Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons [end recording]

Siles Resignation Denied

PY171949 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1722 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 17 May (EFE) -- Bolivian Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena today said that Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo will not resign. The official spokesman of the Bolivian Government emphasized that Siles Zuazo "has not been thinking either about resigning or going on a hunger strike" to curb to some extent the social conflicts on the rampage in this nation as a result of the economic crisis.

Siles Zuazo is currently under severe labor pressure because this sector is demanding solutions to the economic crisis and the resignation of certain ministers because of their "unfortunate handling of the economic and financial affairs of the nation." Government sources have indicated that the president is prepared to take drastic personal steps if democracy continues to be endangered by labor strikes. This information was denied by Minister Rueda Pena.

Santa Cruz Threatens Government

PY172340 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2218 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] We have just received very important information from Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Our correspondent in Santa Cruz, (Felipe Calimontes), just reported that the Santa Cruz Committee has issued a manifesto to the nation calling for immediate administrative decentralization and declaring a state of emergency. This is what was relayed from Santa Cruz:

[Begin relay] The Santa Cruz Committee just issued a manifesto to the nation which was read in full by its chairman, (Jorge Landivar). Because of the significance of this manifesto for the nation in general, especially in these times of (?crisis), we will relay the recording of (Jorge Landivar) reading the manifesto:

[Begin (Landivar) recording] Ladies and gentlemen: Bolivia is floundering in one of the most (?severe) crises of its history. This crisis is threatening coexistence, respect for institutions, and the very lives of its people.

Although this situation should be overcome through hard work and respect for the law, as in any civilized nation that knows how to put its freedom to proper use, we witness with sorrow that the reaction to disaster is widespread anarchy, irresponsible and illegal strikes, and subversion of the existing order, actions that can lead to the dissolution of the Bolivian community.

We cannot allow a collapse of this kind -- instigated exclusively by the ruling party's actions -- to (?destroy) the social forces of the nation. We firmly believe that the basic cause is the centralized and unitarian nature of the government which has repeatedly failed through the more than 150 years in this nation.

This political attitude of living without working and impoverishing [words indistinct] is taking place because we are not receiving the benefits of our natural resources, as is the case with our royalties which, in addition to helping to (?alleviate) the fiscal deficit also [words indistinct] anarchy throughout the country.

The Santa Cruz Committee believes that the time has come for Bolivians to resort to long-range, not contingency, measures. This is not the right time to argue about superficial and secondary matters. The main issue is the central government, which has failed to provide solutions in the past and now, faced with the current crisis, is incapable of dealing with current difficulties because of its severe shortcomings.

So far, the main concern of this committee has been to bring together all sectors in order to keep the economic and social framework of our region operational. The [words indistinct] of the Central Bank, Bolivian Government Oil Deposits, have jeopardized our best intentions. Santa Cruz has been plunged, against its will and natural inclination, into this situation because of the imprudent and [word indistinct] behavior which is possibly only under the system of central government and a succession of rulers which have finally managed to paralyze our productive activities [words indistinct] region and people.

We are not prepared to stand by and allow havoc to be wreaked even if it means having to shed our own blood. In keeping with the above considerations, the Santa Cruz Committee has resolved:

1. To demand that the National Government comply with its constitutional responsibilities.

2. In keeping with [words indistinct] to demand the immediate political and administrative decentralization of the country.

3. To maintain the state of emergency in Santa Cruz Department and call all civic committees of the nation to an extraordinary congress to discuss the ways and means necessary to achieve the above-mentioned national goal.

4. If the government (?refuses) to comply with this demand, the people of Santa Cruz and its civic committee will carry out the political and administrative decentralization of this department on their own. Thank you. [end recording]

The Santa Cruz Civic Committee has sent a note to Hernan Siles Zuazo and [words indistinct] conveying their concern about [words indistinct]. [end relay]

That was our correspondent in Santa Cruz de la Sierra who reported on the manifesto of the Santa Cruz Committee asking the government for immediate political and administrative decentralization, declaring a state of emergency, calling for an extraordinary congress of all national civic committees, and threatening that unless the central government complies with its demands the Santa Cruz Civic Committee will take it upon itself to sever political and administrative ties with the central government. That was the report that we just received from Santa Cruz.

Armed Forces Support Government

PY180155 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Bolivian Armed Forces, concerned about the chaos prevailing throughout the Bolivian community, have made a call for permanent dialogue to overcome frictions and avoid sterile antagonisms and useless clashes, which cannot provide solutions to current difficulties. They have asked government, political, business, union, and civic leaders to remain calm and adopt proper and respectful attitudes toward each other and to fulfill their responsibility of leading the Bolivian people along the path of progress, peace, and national understanding without alien interference, regressive distortions, or factional interests. Among other things, the document states:

The day 10 October 1982 was the crowning point of a broad national accord for the reinstatement of constitutional rule in the nation, accord by which all representative sectors of the nation tacitly committed themselves to strengthening and improving democracy, generously forsaking factional, individual, or group interests and developing strong bonds of mutual solidarity and respect to make sure that the state of law remained in force.

At this point it is clear that while the Armed Forces of the nation have been staunchly abiding by the rights and duties stemming from the above-mentioned accord, the other sectors, be they government, political, labor, business, or civic, have failed to do so, for they have to a large extent distorted the very foundations of the commitment, giving rise to an irresponsible and anarchic social upheaval which not only threatens the constitutional process but the very survival of the nation.

The people at large are perfectly well aware that after having made this process possible as undeniable evidence of their institutional loyalty, the Armed Forces have remained strictly within the boundaries of their specific duties.

Thus, the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy have repeatedly and invariably demonstrated their allegience to the constitutional regime and have undertaken before the people the commitment to zealously defend national sovereignty, public peace, and the state of law.

The severe economic crisis that the nation is enduring is the result of a myriad of factors, such as the bulky foreign debt, the growing balance-of-payments deficit, the unbridled inflation, the usurious interests of international banking institutions, the decline of production, the inappropriate use to which the scarce domestic funds have been put, and many other elements that are being used by extremist factions which do not hesitate to irresponsibly sow hatred among Bolivians, seeking to destroy their patriotic feelings. They have a negative effect on the nation and do not comply with the laws in force.

The constant strikes, stoppages, blockades, and other strong-arm measures which do not abide by the laws enacted as far back as the governments of Busch and Villaroel are to blame for the current disorder and for the anxiety of the people.

The prevailing severe anarchy, worsened by the economic crisis and unbridled speculation, has weakened public institutions, a situation further distorted by the paralysis of the nation's economic and financial system, all of which goes against the laws which must be obeyed and respected by all Bolivian citizens.

The Armed Forces are concerned with preserving the institutional framework of the nation, which requires coordinated support from all government branches whose only goal must be to serve the interests of the fatherland and forsaking factional interests of political parties, labor, and business organizations, and civic institutions which must serve the community in order to ensure the well-being and tranquillity of all the people of Bolivia.

Although they are currently keeping to their own military activities, the Bolivian Armed Forces note with concern the dramatic plight of the Bolivian people. The Armed Forces are objectively proving that they respect the legal system effect, and they wish to reiterate their request for all political and social forces to act in accordance with the law.

The Bolivian people can rest assured that the Armed Forces will step in unhesitatingly and in due time to defend public peace, the security and the inalienable sovereignty of the nation, thus complying with the terms of the legacy of the Marshal of Ayacucho.

This was a communique issued by the Armed Forces of the nation signed by Division General Alfredo Villaroel Barja, commander of the Armed Forces; Division General Raul Lopez Leyton, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; Division General Simon Sejas Tordoya, Army commander in chief; Division General Oscar Villa Urioste, Air Force commander in chief; Rear Admiral Edwin Vargas Mendez, Navy commander in chief.

State of Siege Ruled Out

PY180251 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0103 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 17 May (EFE) -- The Bolivian Government today decided not to declare a state of siege throughout the country which would have been intended to halt the escalation of strike movements, and it asserted that it will continue to talk with the unions in an effort to work out the conflict that is jeopardizing democracy.

The ministerial cabinet met with President Siles Zuazo to evaluate the scope of the economic, social, and political crisis which has been hammering against the democratic government, as well as about the possibility of adopting exceptional measures to confront the difficult situation.

Authorized spokesmen for the Siles Zuazo government have reported that the authorities will resume sectorial conversations with several labor organizations which have declared themselves legally or illegally on strike, thus disrupting the nation's productive activities. They added that the social conflicts are having repercussions in the political affairs of this Andean country, which returned to a democratic process after experiencing 18 years of dictatorships.

Political committees of the governing political parties have stressed that the initial contacts with the sectors that are on strike have had an optimistic atmosphere because the labor leaders have clearly indicated that they support the constitutional process and that they are against the interests of the groups that want a coup that seeks to upset the stability of the state of law.

Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has indicated that the executive branch is willing to renew the dialogue with the Bolivian Labor Confederation (COB). The unions maintain that a reopening of the dialogue with the government can only happen when the ministers of the economic cabinet resign. They accuse those ministers of "supporting the intersts of the IMF." The president has ratified Finance Minister Flavio Machicado in his post. Machicado is responsible for the package of drastic economic and financial measures and he had resigned his post "to help the government in its negotiations with the COB."

Meanwhile, the government has decided to stop the escalation of social unrest with the beginning of trials against the union leaders who have ordered illegal labor strikes, in accordance with a decision that handed down by the district attorney, Lawyer Mario Rivero Boyan. Rivero has demanded a detailed report on the strikes that have been declared throughout the country from the Labor Ministry in order to punish the guilty labor leader. He based his decision on clauses contained in the Penal Code, which establishes punishment for the persons who interrupt the functioning of enterprises without legal justification.

Moreover, the COB maintains that it is supporting a number of illegal strikes, such as that of the employees of the Central Bank, who have paralyzed the economic activities of this nation since 12 April with the purpose of "boycotting" the implementation of measures that have been approved by the government.

The general and indefinite strike that is being carried out by the oilworkers is another of the stoppages that is seriously affecting the functioning of this nation. The oil workers are demanding a 200-percent salary increase. Their strike has disrupted public and private transport and emptied the markets of food throughtout the country. Although the COB is supporting the bankers' strike, it has declared that the oilworkers strike is disruptive because it does not obey the mandate of an overall meeting of labor leaders that had decided to apply pressure against Siles Zuazo's government. The atmosphere of social disorder and the infighting between the unions and the government have caused the authorities and politicians of various leanings to fear an outbreak of movements of force that have the intention of interrupting the democratic process.

PRESIDENT SILES ZUAZO APPEALS TO NATION FOR CALM

PY180320 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0141 GMT 18 May 84

[Speech to the nation by President Hernan Siles Zuazo from Government House in La Paz on 17 May -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen:

This time we Bolivians can make no mistakes. Our history is fraught with sorrowful outcomes of sectarianism, demagoguery, and provocations.

The struggle that the Bolivian people had to wage to recover their freedoms and to make democratic institutions operational was very long. No single sector of our nation can claim all the credit for this achievement.

The labor movement was one of the main factors that led to the democratic victory attained on 10 October 1982, but it was not the only one. To say the opposite would be to take the wrong approach, which in the past signified several defeats for the Bolivian people.

In fact, 18 years of dedication and efforts were necessary to build a political mechanism and design a program capable of guiding the revolutionary actions of our people. For this task, considerable sacrifice was required from all social sectors and institutions of our fatherland: the workers, the students, the truly nation-minded businessmen, the peasants, the professionals, and the housewives; that is, a broad spectrum of wills organized by the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP] front and those of us who have placed our civic mindedness and patriotic efforts to guide and organize the desire of the people to live in freedom.

The entire country became the scene of the battle for democracy. This struggle was not an easy one. The list of martyrs of our national liberation process is dramatically long. Humble men and women from cities and rural areas alike and well-known political and union leaders and activists fell while performing the task that the fatherland assigned them.

These sacrifices and the bloodshed must not be forgotten; the best homage we can pay to our martyrs is to work to build our democracy without rancor and with generous self-sacrifice.

Therefore, we call upon the people to close ranks against the anarchy which has been to blame in the past for the severe setbacks in the people's struggle for reaffirming democracy and moving along the path toward freedom.

We will not allow a repetition of the events on 21 August 1971 [when General Hugo Banzer overthrew President Juan Jose Torres], which meant the brutal withdrawal of all freedoms and outrages against the most essential human rights.

Our current duty is to prevent irresponsible behavior from leading to another 17 July 1980 [coup d'etat led by Major General Luis Garcia Meza Tejada], when dishonor and arrogance severed the course toward democracy.

The Bolivian Armed Forces are basically respectful toward the constitutional system and civilian rule. They have scrupulously fulfilled this duty for the duration of this constitutional government. Thus, the Armed Forces, being one of the pillars of the nation, are currently engaged in defending the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation. They are participating with the people in tasks conducive to harmonious and sovereign development without detriment to their specific professional functions.

However, no one must forget that the democratic process launched in October 1982 was the beginning of a rapprochement between the Armed Forces and their people.

The absolute respect for democratic freedom and the staunch defense of the interests of the Bolivian people in general which we have maintained since 10 October 1982 has given rise to spontaneous solidarity of fraternal Latin American, European, and North American nations as well as of international organizations.

This flow of solidarity has not taken form in a concrete financial program that will back up our domestic actions. It is not up to our executive ability and the responsible participation of all active sectors of the nation to make sure that these resources yield the results which we all expect. However, the lack of self-control and overeagerness of certain union leaders whose actions are not in keeping with the democratic and revolutionary ideals of the people are causing a social upheaval which makes it impossible to enact any kind of recovery program whatsoever and jeopardizes the very democratic process.

We want to reaffirm our commitment to the program that allowed us to win three consecutive elections. Nevertheless, this program cannot be applied in a mechanical manner. It requires adjustments and amendments because of the dramatic economic and financial restrictions plaguing the country. I want to reiterate that we will continue fighting against the new clique that is doing its best to weaken this process in order to bring about its failure. Neither are we prepared to allow the continuing actions of private businessmen who do not care about the interest of the nation and are taking advantage of the crisis and the hunger of the people, speculating, overbilling exports, and evading taxes.

The UDP and the parties that belong to it have a deep-rooted tradition of struggle within the framework of the labor and popular movement. Thus, we wish to address our comrade workers to tell you: We may make mistakes, but we will never go against the interests of the workers and peasants; we will never resort to actions that could weaken the unity of the worker-peasant movement.

Our proposals are neither threats nor attempts at extorting popular organizations. They reassert the validity of the economic program that we are (?advocating) and the need to enact it with the active participation of all the people.

There is a clear-cut similarity between the objectives of the government program and those of the workers movement. The practical aspects of its implementation can be resolved through dialogue and consensus, because there are concrete limitation which stem from the status quo and cannot be resolved through utopian good will.

It is because we are convinced that the burden of solutions to this crisis should not befall the workers that we have devised a tax reform program that will significantly increase the taxes of those who have privileged incomes. Furthermore, we have taken steps to ensure a substantial increase in the operating capital of private national banks. At the same time, we have ordered a legal reserve of 100 percent on all new deposits.

It is because the workers must not bear the brunt of this crisis that we have decided to review the contracts between the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] and foreign companies so as to adjust them in such a way that they will better serve national interests.

We never thought about taking upon the state the obligation of paying the foreign debt of the private sector because those who have benefited from past dictatorships must now contribute to the recovery of our economy. We want to ratify our decision in this regard.

It is because we want to be fair to our people that we have ordered a 100-percent salary increase for all the workers of productive sectors, being aware of the poverty in the rural areas, we have established profitable prices for the products of the peasants.

At the same time, we are enacting a program to supply food, medicaine, and other essential staples to rural areas. Furthermore, we have granted legal status to CORACA [expansion unknown], and we are seeking to bring itinerant workers under the umbrella of the labor law.

Knowing that the housing deficit ofthe nation is alarming, we have decided to include all housing councils in the system of joint construction and to speed up the constuction of emergency housing projects approved in 1983.

It is because we want to do away with shortages that we have decided to promote the establishment of company stores, drugstores, and people's stores like those in Santa Cruz.

Because we do not want prices to rise without control, we have launched a campaign to control prices and protect the consumers.

It is because we are a popular and democratic government that we maintain our inalienable commitment to guarantee ideological pluralism and a truly democratic use of state-owned news media.

Due to our commitment to democratization and [words indistinct] local governments we firmly maintain our decision to hold municipal elections in December 1984. Along the same lines, we plan to carry our administrative decentralization preserving the idea of national integration and unity.

Because of our firm belief in the political instrument that made the victory of the people possible on 10 April, this year we reassembled the Democratic and Popular Unity, keeping the Christian Democratic Party in the government.

Our honorable and straightforward performance will allow us to unhesitatingly punish corrupt individuals and speculators who have grown rich at the expense of the people's hunger. We will be even more pitiless with those of our members who may commit crimes against the people's economy.

Fellow countrymen, these are times of decision. The government's duty is to assume a decisive attitude against those who, claiming to speak for the people, harm the latter. This it will do inflexibly in keeping with the historic responsibility of defending a democratic process that is being threatened by openly seditious minorities.

So far the patient and tolerant attitude of the government has been mistaken for weakness. This has compelled us to strengthen our defense of the democratic process, national interests, and popular gains. We will enforce the provisions of our Constitution to protect the security of the people, the nation, and the democratic process.

Labor anarchy and illegal actions must end. The government will fulfill its duties. The time has come to reestablish the state of law.

The strike of the leaders of the Bolivian Central Bank and the National Television Enterprise is contrary to the interests of the nation and cause hardships for the people.

There appears to be a curious similarity between the statements of certain leaders and those of right-wing groups behind the drug traffic and the campaign orchestrated by the antidemocratic opposition whose overt or covert objective is to replace the constitutional government.

Certain bank workers' leaders, whose records are rather shady, are openly making a hostile effort to overthrow ministers of state and oppose the fulfillment of regulations, thus disrupting public order.

Article 123 of the Criminal Law labels these actions seditious. The criminal attitude of certain union leaders who have taken over state-owned buildings and facilities has halted the rendering of strategic public services, causing irreversible harm to national assets and interests in open violation of clear-cut constitutional provisions.

The services that the state must provide for the people, in this case the issuance of money, the reporting of pluralistic and democratic information, and the provision of energy, cannot be managed in an arbitrary and irresponsible manner. The government, through its instruments and its legally appointed officials, is the only body that is authorized and obliged to provide these services.

Bolivians, it is the responsibility of the constitutional president of the Republic to implement laws, to see that they are obeyed, and to approve appropriate decrees and measures so that he can administer public assets. In order to carry out this mandate, it has been decided that the operation of the Central Bank must be normalized by rigorously applying the law; that the installations of the Bolivian Government Oil Deposits throughout the country must be given appropriate protection; and as a consequence of the recent agreement with the oilworkers, that the normal distribution of fuels will be resumed.

The decrees and resolutions that will be made known tonight by the ministers are to be considered as a strengthening of the principle of authority of this government.

On the basis of this principle and with all Bolivians obeying the Constitution and the laws it is up to the government to develop its dialogue with all the country's sectors and institutions.

In this spirit, I call on the executive committee of the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] to study pending problems and to seek the best solutions that the country's real possibilities will allow.

This is a demonstration of the permanent policy for dialogue that the government has when it takes into account the importance of the nation's supreme interests.

I fraternally call upon the patriotism and responsibility of all Bolivians to help the government at this difficult time to reestablish order through peaceful means and with the instruments that are provided by the laws.

Fellow countrymen, we must not make mistakes. There exists the urgent need that our Bolivia must continue to be a land of free men.

DECREE NORMALIZES CENTRAL BANK OPERATIONS

PY180433 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Hernan Siles Zuazo, Constitutional President of the Republic, considering:

That the political Constitution of the state in Article 143 clearly establishes the president's responsibility in the conduct of monetary, banking, and credit policy, as well as the control of foreign reserves;

That the General Labor Law classifies strikes as legal and illegal, and classifies as illegal the one declared by Bolivia's Central Bank which is unresolved due to the lack of justification to support it and to the overt resistance of its leaders in complying with the law and the orders of their superiors, despite the fact that the supreme government has at no time interrupted the dialogue even when the solution to the conflict, unilaterally created by the union leaders, has proven unattainable;

That the strike at Bolivia's Central Bank, which is an autonomous institution of public law, is causing serious economic damage to the state and to private individuals through the paralysis of economic transactions on a national scale;

That the Organic Law of the Central Bank establishes that autonomous institution of public law, subject to the laws of the Republic in assisting in the attainment of national goals and programs of development and of other objectives set forth by law which are not now being served due to the illegal strike declared by some leaders of the sector;

In the Council of Ministers, the president decrees:

Article 1. For reasons of public interest and social need, the normalization of Bolivia's Central Bank is dictated in order to reestablish its internal order which has been disregarded by the illegally declared strike and so that the institution can fulfill its specific functions and objectives.

Article 2. The implementation of this normalization will be in the charge of the Finance Ministry, with all the authority necessary in the case.

Article 3. The resolution of the Central Bank in this regard, dated 4 May 1984, is to be enacted with all the necessary support from the government.

Article 4. The president of Bolivia's Central Bank, the directorate, general manager, manager, and treasurer will be charged with the normalization of all work at the institution.

Article 5. The unjustified absence or refusal to report to work of any functionary will be construed as a submission of resignation from his position; and should there be any act of resistance or violence, the functionaries will be liable to action intended to determine the penal and civil consequences.

Article 6. The vacancies that should occur will be filled giving priority consideration to the participation and expertise of retirees at the institution who voluntarily want to return to work, and the remaining vacancies will be filled with citizens who should qualify in an examination of competence.

Article 7. The authorities responsible for the implementation of this decree are empowered to adopt all preventive and administrative measures which the circumstances demand, including the transfer of some functions of Bolivia's Central Bank to other institutions of the public financial system.

The ministers of finance, interior, immigration and justice, labor and labor development are responsible for the implementation of and compliance with the present Supreme Decree.

Signed at the Government Palace in the City of La Paz on 17 May 1984

Board To Be Changed

PY181255 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Considering:

That it is necessary to change the structure of the Executive Board of the Bolivian Central Bank in order to designate labor representatives;

That the new Executive Board members must be designated in keeping with the new structures of the Executive Board;

The Council of Ministers hereby decrees:

Article 1. The number of government and labor representatives at the Central Bank Executive Board is hereby set at four and two directors, respectively. They shall be elected in keeping with the terms of the Organic Law of the Bolivian Central Bank.

Article 2. The following citizens are hereby designated as representatives of the presidency of the Republic: Mr (Herbert Muller Kont), Mr Juan Cristobal Urioste, Mr (Fernando Prado Guachalla), and Mrs. Tamara Sanchez Pena. The following citizens are hereby designated as alternate representatives and a representatives of the Ministry of Coordination and Planning and of the Ministry of Finance, respectively: Mr (Javier Diaz Souza), Mr (Hugo Bobaroc), and Mr (Rodolfo Amener Gatica). The labor representatives shall be designated as soon as the legal requirements have been met. The minister of finance shall be responsible for the enforcement of this decree.

Police Intervene at Bank

PY181237 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The government has begun to implement the decree normalizing the activities of the Bolivian Central Bank. At 0600 this morning the government ordered the Bolivian police to intervene at the Central Bank; therefore, the activities of the Central Bank are being normalized.

According to information provided by the Central Bank Public Relations Department, a police unit named Leopardos at 0600 this morning entered the main office of the Bolivian Central Bank located on Ayacucho and Mercado Streets. This department also reported that the Central Bank employees have decided to hold a meeting today somewhere in the city. The Confederation of Bank Workers has also decided to stage a march in support of the bank employees.

DECREE ISSUED CORRECTING WAGE DISTORTIONS

PY181300 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Considering:

That it is necessary to change the scope of Decree No 20,185 dated 12 April 1984, which established food allowances;

That it is essential to correct salary distortions in order to increase production and productivity in state-run companies;

That the UDP government is willing to meet the demands made by the workers, taking into account the economic possibilities of the country and the particular condition of each labor sector;

The Council of Ministers hereby decrees:

Article 1. It is hereby established that state-run company workers shall be excluded from the benefits of Decree No 20,185, dated 12 April 1984, which established food allowances.

Article 2. State-run companies are hereby authorized to include a 100-percent adjustment in their payrolls for March 1984. This adjustment shall be distributed among employees in order to correct the distortions that have affected their salaries.

Article 3. If an employee has already received the 35,723-peso food allowance, this amount shall be considered as part of the adjustment granted under the terms of the previous article.

Article 4. Exceptionally, the salary adjustment granted under this decree shall not be considered as an advance on future adjustments granted under the flexible scale system.

Article 5. The application of this decree to workers who have been granted wage or salary readjustments of any size and on any grounds after 1 December 1983, in addition to the general salary adjustments, shall be subject to the following regulations:

A. If such adjustments were smaller than the readjustment established by this decree, they shall be paid only the balance.

B. If such adjustments were of the same magnitude or larger than the readjustment established by this decree, they shall not avail themselves of the rights established by this decree.

Article 6. Considering the agreement signed today between YPFB [Bolivian Government Oil Deposits] workers and directors, which will be approved by the Labor Ministry, YPFB workers shall not benefit from the present decree.

Article 7. All particular cases that are not foreseen in this decree shall be dealt with by the Labor Ministry which shall issue the respective regulations.

The ministers of finance and labor shall be responsible for enforcing this decree.

FOOD ALLOWANCE INCREASED, SCOPE EXTENDED

PY181305 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Considering:

That, taking into account the need to amend the scope of Decree No 20,185 of 12 April 1984, a food allowance for all workers throughout the country has been established;

That the constitutional government of the Republic intends to meet the demands of all workers, taking into account the economic possibilities of the country and the characteristics of each sector;

That it is imperative not to increase the fiscal deficit, so that the short-term emergency plan may be fulfilled;

The Council of Ministers decrees:

Article 1. Article 1 of Decree No 20,185 of 12 April 1984, establishing a food allowance, is hereby amended and this allowance is extended to the following staples: milk, spaghetti, and coffee.

Article 2. Article 2 of Decree No 20,185 of 12 April 1984 is hereby modified, increasing the food allowance to 51,982 Bolivian pesos.

Article 3. The present decree is retroactive to 1 April 1984 and effects public employees of the central, decentralized, and local administrations, but not those of public enterprises.

Article 4. Particular cases not contemplated in the present decree will be regulated by the Labor and Labor Development Ministry.

The ministers of finance and labor and labor development are hereby charged with the fulfillment and implementation of the present decree.

DECREE GRANTS WORKERS 100-PERCENT SALARY HIKE

PY181410 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Considering the need to modify the scope of Decree No 20,185 of 12 April 1984, by which the food allowance was established;

And that the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity intends to meet the demands of the workers, taking into account the economic possibilities of the country and the nature of each labor sector;

The Council of Ministers decrees:

Article 1. Workers of the private sector are hereby excluded from the scope of Decree No 20,185 of 12 April 1984 which establishes food allowances.

Article 2. A 100-percent wage increase is hereby granted to all workers of the private sector. The basis of this wage increase will be estimated according to the salary of each worker in the month of March 1984.

Article 3. In cases where workers have received to this date the food allowance of 35,723 Bolivian pesos, it will be considered as part of the increase established in the previous article.

Article 4. The wage increase, of an exceptional nature, established by this decree, will not be considered as an advance payment of the next readjustment resulting from the implementation of the escalator clause.

Article 5. Workers who have received since 1 December 1983 salary increases for any reason or under any condition, in addition to the general salary readjustment granted for the implementation of the present decree, will be subject to the following rules:

A. If these readjustments were lower than those established in the previous article, they will receive only the difference;

B. If these adjustments were equal or higher, those workers will be excluded from the implementation of this decree.

Article 6. The Labor and Labor Development Ministry will regulate implementation of this decree.

The labor minister is hereby charged with the implementation and fulfillment of this decree.

MONETARY BOARD ISSUES BANKING RESOLUTIONS

Legal Reserves Established

PY181405 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Resolution No 0021/84 of the Monetary Board:

Considering the need to guarantee that the new deposits of the banking system be used for the reactivation and strengthening of the productive sectors;

And taking into account the need for an equitable distribution of such deposits, the Monetary Board resolves:

Article 1. A legal reserve of 100 percent is established for any deposits in current account which are above the highest deposit level during the past 3 months.

Article 2. The banking system will be able to request from the Bolivian Central Bank the use of up to 40 percent of these deposits if it is a domestic bank, and up to 32.5 percent if it is a foreign bank. These funds must be used for credits granted to the productive sectors in the following proportions: agriculture, 50 percent; livestock, 20 percent; industry, 30 percent.

Article 3. The meaning of Article 130 of the General Banking Law is hereby extended in such a manner that none of the commercial or state banks, unless explicitly authorized by the Bolivian Central Bank, will be able to directly or indirectly lend, advance, discount, endorse, or purchase obligations, or carry out other operations regardless of their nature, that may compromise the responsibility of a person or economic group of persons, for an amount higher than 20 percent of the net capital of that bank. By an economic group is meant a group of persons with at least one of the following characteristics:

A. Joint property, that is, owning majority shares in another corporation;

B. Financial interrelations, that is, those not strictly commercial according to the activity of each enterprise, such as financial loans, and those not resulting from the sale of its products.

Article 4. The board of the Bolivian Central Bank is hereby charged with overseeing the enforcement of this resolution.

Bank Solvency Ensured

PY181415 La Paz Domestic Service in Spanish 0203 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Monetary Board Resolution No 0022/84.

Considering that it is necessary to ensure that both the state and the private financial system stay solvent, not speculative, and that they serve the process of economic recovery over the short term as well as over the long term;

It is resolved:

Article 1. The Bolivian Central Bank, in a period of no more than 15 days, should determine and regulate the minimum capital with which the banks established in the country should operate, taking into account a reasonable relation among total liabilities, net assets, and the total exposure of net assets.

Article 2. The Central Bank will determine the new levels of reserves for overdue credits, which will not be deductible for tax purposes until the real or estimated loss become apparent in the light of legal provisions in force.

Article 3. The Monetary Board and the General Division of Internal Revenue will jointly establish appropriate legal dispositions that the banking system should not account for interest on overdue credits as earned credits.

FIGUEIREDO: NO CHANGES TO ELECTORAL BILL BASICS

PY171911 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] President Figueiredo [words indistinct] in Brasilia stated that the basic points of the constitutional amendment he submitted to Congress are not subject to negotiation: a 4-year term for his successor and direct presidential elections in 1988. Figueiredo also announced that under no circumstances will he resume the role of coordinator of his successor and criticized the position of both his party and the opposition. He said that the major flaw of the Social Democratic Party [PDS] is (?pessimism) which could result in a defeat at the hands of the opposition even in an indirect election. The major flaw he found in the opposition is (?stubborness), which thus far prevented a general, broad understanding.

PDS Deputy Rubem Medina also reported that Figueiredo again criticized the position of some presidential hopefuls who refuse to give up their candidacies in order to allow negotiations with the opposition to move ahead. This criticism was directly aimed at the candidates who are flatly refusing to resign: Minister Mario Andreazza and Deputy Paulo Maluf.

After making these disclosures to PDS politicans in Brasilia, President Figueiredo went to Rio de Janeiro.

NEVES: WILL BE CANDIDATE 'UNDER ANY CONDITIONS'

PY171532 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] In Minas Gerais, Governor Tancredo Neves has finally shown his cards: He said he has agreed to become a presidential candiate under any conditions, in direct or indirect elections. Luis Inacio de Silva, president of the Workers Party [PT], has strongly criticized Neves' decision.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 1315 GMT on 17 May 1984 adds: "Neves made it clear, however, that his candidacy will have to first be approved by a convention of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB)."]

CMN ADOPTS DECISIONS TO CONTROL MONEY SUPPLY

PY180132 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 May 84 p 31

[Excerpt] In its second meeting of the year and the first one with the new councillors, the National Monetary Council (CMN) yesterday approved a set of measures aimed at correcting the monetary policy and at generating more resources in the open market, as well as at curbing inflation of food prices by authorizing the import of various agricultural products. These are the principal measures adopted:

1. The Bank of Brazil is authorized to issue Bank Deposit Certificates (CDB) under the same conditions as private banks up to the limit of its budget needs.

2. The fixed income mutual funds will be obliged to reapportion a larger volume of their investments in the purchase of federal securities -- LTN [National Treasury Bonds] and ORTN [National Treasury Readjustable Orders].

3. The brokerage houses will be allowed to have their own financial paper portfolios with the approval of the CMN and under Resolution 39 of the Security and Stocks Commission (CVM).

4. In external debts contracted in 1983 on the basis of Resolution 63, federal, state, and municipal financial institutions are authorized to roll over 110 percent of the principal and interest on debts which fell due in 1983, and to roll over 100 percent of the principal but paying interest on those falling due in 1984.

5. The cost of operations of liquidity loans from the Central Bank to commercial banks is now tied to the overnight financing for SELIC (Liquidity and Custody System) set daily by the Central Bank, observing its effective monthly value, with added yearly interest rates from 6 to 18 percent depending on the limit of the operation.

6. Next Friday, the BNH [National Housing Bank] will issue a resolution establishing that Real Estate Credit Societies (SCI) will cease to grant financing for working capital to construction companies, and will go back to investing available funds in acquisition of public papers.

7. Imports of refined soybean oil and beans has been authorized to prevent shortages that can pressure these two products prices upward.

8. Commercial banks are no longer required to use 5 percent of their legal reserves in the purchase of CDB [Bank Deposit Certificates] and RDB [Bank Deposit Registration] from state commercial banks and investment banks will no longer be obligated to use 15 percent of their investments for the acquisition of debentures.

In explaining to journalists the reason for the measures that were adopted by the CMN, Finance Minister Ernane Galveas affirmed that they are intended to better control monetary policy, avoiding the fluctuations that the money supply and the monetary basis have experienced at the end of the month, as happened last April.

NETTO OFF TO JAPAN, PRC; PASTORE TO U.S.

PY171550 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Planning Minister Delfim Netto has left for Japan and China to prepare the agreements President Figueiredo will sign in those countries during his upcoming visit. Central Bank President Alfonso Celso Pastore is leaving tonight for the United States to discuss the problems caused by the increase in international interest rates.

STRIKING ORANGE PICKERS CLASH WITH POLICE

PY171447 Paris AFP in Spanish 2127 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo, 16 May (AFP) -- Approximately 2,000 rural workers clashed with the police this morning while attempting to block access to the town of Bebedouro, 380 km north of Sao Paulo. The itinerant workers had pickets out on the highways to stop the trucks which have come to pick up the orange crop from the farms.

The itinerant workers are demanding wage hikes, including to be paid 200 instead of 60 cruzeiros for each box of oranges harvested.

When the police arrived the strikers met them with sticks and hurled a barrage of stones but a decisive response from the police, who did not hesitate to use teargas bombs, restored calm.

TREASURY MINISTER RAPS U.S. COPPER PROTECTIONISM

WA181120 Rome IPS in English 16 May 84

[Text] Santiago, May 16 (IPS) -- Chilean Treasury Minister Luis Escobar Cerda has reiterated his pledge to fight possible U.S. protectionism against Chilean copper imports. American copper companies are demanding that the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) sharply reduce purchases of Chilean copper, in what Escobar Cerda says would be a virtual boycott of the Chilean metal.

Chile sold 290,000 tons of copper to American buyers last year, out of total Chilean exports of one million tons. If the ITC accpts the U.S. companies' petition, Chile's copper sales to the United States would be reduced to a maximum of 121,000 tons a year, 40 percent of last year's total.

Copper exports provide more than 50 percent of Chile's foreign exchange earnings. Falling international copper prices, combined with rising interest rates which increase Chile's foreign debt burden, pushed the country's budget deficit up to about $500 million in the first four months of 1984.

The ITC hearings began yesterday in Washington, with U.S. producers accusing the Chilean Government of subsidizing copper exports. The largest Chilean copper mines are administrated by the state-run Chilean Copper Corporation (CODELCO). U.S. company officials charged that the state subsidies are hurting American industry and generating unemployment in the United States, because producers cannot compete with CODELCO's prices.

In a speech last night to American investors in Chile, the treasury minister charged that "in the United States, a country which considers itself the champion of the free market, to which we adhere, they intend to boycott purchases of Chilean copper and are issuing warnings of what may happen in this field in the near future."

Escobar Cerda was the only speaker at the meeting, which marked the first anniversary of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Chile.

"It concerns us that (the United States) speaks to us of economic freedom, while on the other hand they threaten us with market restrictions," the minister declared. He also warned that the proposed restrictions would do serious harm to Chile's economy and noted that the Latin American countries must sell their products to help pay their foreign debts.

"All Chile's economic growth is committed to the payment of interest on the foreign debt," he said. "We must pay $2 billion a year, which requires us to make an extraordinary effort," Escobar Cerda explained, "because if we only increase our gross domestic product (GDP) by four percent, we will only get $800 or $900 million, but must face a deficit of more than $1 billion."

He noted that current investment in Chile is very low, at 12 percent of the GDP, and expressed regret that "once more we confirm that the Chilean economy is dependent on the price of copper, which is experiencing a sharp decline, and on international interest rates, which are rising."

The treasury minister announced that Chile will ask the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for urgent negotiations on the country's foreign finance situation, particularly on the foreign debt payments due in 1985 and 1986. Escobar Cerda expressed satisfaction with foreign banks' recent approval of $780 million in credit. But he stressed that Chile's former economic officials, who negotiated the loans before they were replaced recently, based their estimates of the country's loan needs on an average copper price of 75 cents a pound. The price has now dropped below 65 cents.

POLICEMEN, STUDENTS HURT IN UNIVERSITY RIOT

PA172010 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- This afternoon's riot at the National University campus resulted in the arrest of 58 students, 19 policemen seriously wounded, a district bus set on fire, and more than 10 vehicles damaged by rockthrowing.

A police spokesman has confirmed that the riot was provoked by university students to protest the death of a student 1 week ago in the city of Cali. The rioting went on for more than 2 hours, affecting 26th Street and 35th Avenue and concluded a few minutes ago. Now there is absolute calm on the university campus.

It has been reported that the arrested sutdents have been taken to Police Station No 7, and that the wounded policemen have been taken to the hospital. According to reports, during the confrontation between policemen and students shots were fired from the university, which suggests that members of subversive organizations were mingled among the demonstrators.

University Closed

PA180200 Paris AFP in Spanish 0016 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (AFP) -- The National University, Colombia's largest, was closed today for an indefinite period following violent clashes between students and police yesterday, it was officially announced.

Rector Fernando Sanchez indicated that the decision was made by the university's higher council, led by Education Minister Doris Eder de Zambrano.

During the clashes, which began during a protest over the recent death of a student in Cali, western Colombia, some 20 policemen and 10 protesters were wounded, as a result of the use of firearms, grenades, molotov cocktails, acid, and rocks. Two vehicles were burned and others were stoned.

According to the police, the 69 people who were arrested in the incidents include activists from the guerrilla M-19 [19 April Movement] and ELN [Army of National Liberation], a lawyer, a judicial branch employee, and some students.

Many of them will be taken before military courts, in view of the state of siege regulations prohibiting the carrying of weapons or wearing of hoods.

The National University had been reopened 3 weeks ago after a temporary closure that was also due to disorders near the campus in west Bogota.

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH DRAWS MIXED REACTIONS

PY171925 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2357 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] Lima, 16 May (EFE) -- While business and tradesmen seemed to be satisfied by the content of the speech given by the Peruvian prime minister on Tuesday, the labor unions pointed out that the economic measures he announced do not satisfy the needs of workers.

According to Industry, Tourism, and Integration Minister Alvaro Becerra, the government will soon issue provisions designed to raise exports by $500,000, to increase industrial production by 3 percent, and to increase employment by 10 percent.

Gonzalo Garland, president of the Exporters Association, pointed out that with the measures announced by the prime minister, nontraditional exports will rise to $1 billion, that is, they will double in the next 4 months.

The National Confederation of Merchants and other industrial and business organizations were also satisfied by the measures announced by the prime minister.

However, the four labor confederations of the country have already started to criticize the plans announced by the prime minister. This is particularly true of the groups linked to the Communist Party and to the democratic leftist APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], the two confederations having the greatest rallying power in the country. According to the labor confederations, Mariategui's message does not satisfy the needs of workers and has not addressed salary policy.

The labor organizations also distrust the prime minister's position in relation to the International Monetary Fund. The communist confederation pointed out that industrial reactivation depended on Peru's breaking off with this organization.

Meanwhile, the speech delivered on Tuesday caused a marathon debate in Congress which continued until dawn today, although the approval of the prime minister's plan is taken for granted, since his party, the governing Popular Action, has the majority.

Although criticizing what they consider omissions in the prime minister's speech, the opposition parties have agreed on the need to create a common front to strengthen democracy in the country. Representatives of the opposition believe that some of Mariategui's announcements reflect some suggestions they made to him before he delivered his speech.

For his part, General Oscar denied any possibility of a coup in the country and said that the Armed Forces will guarantee the transfer of power after the general elections of March 1985.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE IN LIMA

PY171340 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] University students today carried out several demonstrations in protest of the new university law and bus fare hikes. University students from San Marcos University and the Engineering School carried out street disturbances for the third consecutive day blocking the Avenues Venezuela, Colonial, and Grau. In the medical school of San Fernando the students for the first time carried gas masks to protect against tear gas. At 1100 students from San Andres University began demonstrating. Also several individuals, allegedly university students, wore masks and some even wore gas masks.

UN ENVOY TO VISIT CARACAS ON ESSEQUIBO DISPUTE

FL162354 Bridgetown CANA in English 2216 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Caracas, May 16 (CANA-REUTER) -- United Nations special envoy Diego Cordovez will visit Caracas within the next two months for further talks on resolving Venezuela's claim on the disputed Essequibo region of Guyana, Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul said today. He said Cordovez' visit was in the framework of U.N. efforts to seek a mutually acceptable procedure for settling the dispute, in line with the 1966 Geneva agreement signed by Venezuela and Guyana. The dispute was put in the hands of United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in 1982 after the two countries failed to agree on how to negotiate. This followed the expiry of a 12-year moratorium on talks.

Venezuela has insisted on bilateral negotiations while Guyana favours an international ruling on the 1899 arbitration that awarded the 52,000 square mile Essequibo to then British Guyana.

Meanwhile, the head of the identity card section of the Supreme Electoral Council, Humberto Maio Negrete, said today that a campaign will be begun to distribute cards to Guyanese living in the Essequibo.

"We will set up mobile units near the frontier in an operation supported by the Armed Forces," he said. However, he said there was no intention of sending officials or troops into the Essequibo.

Guyana has repeatedly accused Venezuela of military incursions and flights over the Essequibo, which the government in Caracas has denied. Maio Negrete said there are approximately 50,000 people living in the Essequibo, of which 30-40,000 are Amerindian indians, and that all would be eligible for Venezuelan identity cards.

In the 1960's, the Venezuelan Government conducted a similar operation, but diplomatic sources said few Guyanese ever received identity cards. Recently, the Guyanese Government denied reports it was planning to populate the Essequibo with Haitian immigrants.

BRIEFS

LIGHT CRUDE BEDS DISCOVERED -- CROPOVEN [a subsidiary of Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] has made an important discovery of light-grade crude in one of its oil beds in Apure State. The discovery was made at the "Guafita 1X" well at a depth of 2,260 meters, and the initial production capacity is 1,000 barrels of ligh-grade crude per day. Three more wells will be drilled in the areas of Guafita and La Victoria, where discovery of more ligh-grade crude is expected. [Summary [Vienna OPENCA in Spanish 1741 GMT 26 Apr 84 PA]

OAS AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Washington D.C., 23 Apr (OAS) -- Edilberto Moreno Pena, Venezuela's new permanent representative to the OAS, has presented his credentials to Ambassador Francisco Posada de la Pena, president of the OAS Permanent Council. [Excerpt] [Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 24 Apr 84 p 1 PA]

L.A. AMBASSADORS HAIL DE LA MADRID-REAGAN TALKS

FL170134 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1738 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 15 May (NOTIMEX) -- The meeting of President Miguel de la Madrid and Ronald Reagan will benefit both Mexico and Latin America, the ambassadors from six Latin American countries have agreed.

The diplomats from Argentina, Peru, Honduras, Bolivia, Venezuela, and Brazil stressed that the Mexican head of state will be acting in a sense of Latin American unification in his talks with the U.S. President.

Argentina's representative Rafael Vazquez said it will be a positive step forward for Latin America' North-South relations and added he believes the United States will have to modify its policy, making the U.S. bankers realize that they have a double responsibility.

Honduran Ambassador Ricardo Arturo Pineda Milia said he feels the De la Madrid-Reagan dialogue, in addition to being a success for Mexico, will also be for the countries friendly to this nation, and added there are situations that can only be resolved between heads of state.

Pineda hoped the meeting will be positive with respect to the underdeveloped countries' debt because the debt is becoming increasingly heavy for Third World nations, above all, because of the conditions and demands for settlement.

Peruvian Ambassador Juan de la Piedra Villalonga said President Miguel de la Madrid's visits to South American countries as well as Canada and the United States have taken place in a spirit glowing with Latin American unification.

JOINT COMMITTEE WITH FRANCE TO MAKE AGREEMENTS

FL171822 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0132 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 May (NOTIMEX) -- The Joint French-Mexican Committee will meet with President Miguel de la Madrid on 17 and 18 May to draw up trade, technological, and cultural agreements, a spokesman of the French Embassy said here today. The spokesman added that French Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism Edith Cresson will meet with Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez and Secretary of Energy, Mines, and Parastatal Industry Francisco Labastida Ochoa to draw up bilateral cooperation agreements between France and Mexico.

The spokesman explained that to date the two countries have dealt with matters related to agriculture, fishing, technology transfer, and scientific cooperation in a policy of joint development. France is Mexico's second most important supplier of railroad motorcars, centrifugal pumps, universal milling machines, tires, and nitrocellulose, among other products.

The Mexican Foreign Trade Institute reported that Mexico imported more than $18 million in goods from France in 1983 and exported more that $76 million to France, giving Mexico a favorable commercial balance of over $58 million.

On 24 November 1983, Mexico and France signed a financial protocol in Paris. In February 1984, a mutual assistance agreement was signed to prevent, avoid, and investigate customs fraud.

TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT ON ARDITO VICTORY, CHALLENGES

Quintero Dissents

PA172256 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 May 84 pp A 1, A 100

[The following statement was published as an addendum to the communique issued by the Electoral Tribunal of Panama on 16 May and published on page N1 of the 17 May Latin America DAILY REPORT under the subhead "Issues Communique"]

[Text] Magistrate Cesar Quintero Dissents

The Electoral Tribunal has rejected the appeal for nullification of the elections held in Circuit 4.4 (indigenous areas of the District of Remedios, San Felix, San Lorenzo and Tole) because of a defect of form, in accordance with Article 421 of the Judicial Code and Article 288 of the Electoral Code. Although this decision is procedurally correct and has therefore served as a basis for the rejection of many similar objections, in this case, the case involving Circuit 4.4, public charges have been made alleging certain irregularities that, if proven to be true, could affect the results of the elecions held on 6 May. I therefore dissent from the decision adopted by the majority of the magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal.

Panama, 16 May 1984
Cesar A. Quintero, Magistrate
Everardo E. Tomlinson H., Secretary General

Challenges Rejected

PA180008 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 84

[Interview with Dr Cesar Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal]

[Text] Electoral Tribunal President Dr Cesar Quintero has announced that all challenges have been rejected. The new president of the Republic, Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, will be proclaimed once the deadline of the edict presented to the challengers expires, that is, within the next few hours.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Dr Quintero, what keeps the tribunal from proclaiming the presidential candidate who won in the elections held on Sunday 6 May?

[Quintero] It is a known fact that numerous challenges were filed by both the Democratic opposition Alliance [ADO] and the National Democratic Union [UNADE]. By the way, a lot more challenges were filed against ADO than against UNADE. There were about 88 challenges, or rather 90, because several more were added. These challenges were duly distributed among the three magistrates, and a study conducted of them demonstrated that for many reasons -- either the hastiness with which they were prepared or because the Electoral Code had not been duly studied -- most of these challenges contained deficiencies in form. For this reason, the tribunal rejected all of these challenges yesterday before 1630, and an edict was put up at 1630. It must remain there for at least 24 hours. The challengers can now request a reconsideration. No proclamation can be made until all of this is resolved.

[Reporter] Dr Quintero, should the challengers who do not agree with the Electoral Tribunal's actions request reconsideration, how much longer would it take before the president of the Republic can be proclaimed?

[Quintero] That can be resolved very easily. In the case of a writ filed against the registration of the Authentic Liberal Party under formation, the lawyer challenging that party's registration filed a writ of reconsideration at 1400, I believe. By 1430, I had resolved the case. Although this action was criticized, it was a legal action.

[Reporter] Dr Quintero, it has been repeatedly said that once the problem connected with the ruling on the 6 May elections is over, you will tender your irrevocable resignation as president of the Electoral Tribunal. What could you tell us about this?

[Quintero] For me that would be the ideal solution. Moreover, I will tell you this now because here in Panama everything is known and besides, I have no reason to hide it: When I learned that the National Vote Counting Board was incompetent to fulfill the duty assigned to it -- counting the votes for president and vice president of the Republic and proclaiming the president and vice president of the Republic, as these are not among the normal functions of the tribunal -- I repeat, as soon as I learned this, and learned that this task would be turned over to the tribunal and would be added to the tribunal's many legitimate functions, such as organizing the elections and resolving the challenges, as soon as I saw that this would fall to 3 individuals rather than to the 17 people in the National Vote Counting Board -- which included representatives of all the parties -- I felt that I should leave and I drafted my resignation.

However, it did not seem courteous or appropriate for me to present it to the president of the Republic before making it known, to some extent, to him and certain other people. As soon as they learned of this, prominent leaders of both the UNADE [National Democratic Union] and the Democratic Opposition Alliance told me, either personally, over the telephone, or through my friends, that this would render the situation much worse and that it did not solve anything, that it was not going to change anything. They said it would not change anything and that, instead, it would make the situation worse, because the country is in a very delicate situation and this could lead...[does not finish sentence]

My resignation was simply for that reason, without going into anything else. A task was being assigned to the tribunal for which -- at least speaking for myself -- it was not psychologically prepared to carry out. I always thought that the National Vote Counting Board was going to count the votes and was going to proclaim the president. I believed that the task of vote counting was going to place the tribunal in such a position that, regardless of what it did and regardless of the decision it made, it was going to be called in arbitrary, fraudulent, or whatever sort of decision. There is no solution for that. That is the tragedy for those who judge. Since we judge, we should not be vote counters at the same time.

That was not the case with the Vote Counting Board. The parties were represented there. It was a public act there. It was even televised. But over here, this task fell on just three individuals. It is true that the representatives of the parties were invited and that the act was public, to a certian extent. The tribunal was not obligated to do this, but it decided to do so. [end recording]

PRESIDENT-ELECT MAKES STATEMENT, SPEAKS TO PRESS

Addresses People

PA171600 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1425 GMT 17 May 84

["First statement" by President-elect Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta "for the Panamanian people," no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] Thank you. I appreciate this chance to send an affectionate greeting of hope and faith to the entire Panamanian people, thanking all those who with great enthusiasm and conviction voted for us in these elections, and thanking also all those who, although they did not vote for us, fulfilled their national civic duty and participated in these elections to reaffirm the desire of all Panamanians to return to the path of democracy.

I feel I have a commitment to all Panamanians. I want to be a president for all Panamanians. I read very well the results of this election. I have received the message of both those who voted for us, and those who did not. This is why I reassert my conviction, expressed repeatedly prior to the elections, that what the country needs at this moment of economic crisis and grave social consequences is a government of national reconciliation; a government that can work with all Panamanians with respect, affection, and honesty while trying to inspire the best in every Panamanian, so that together we can pull the country out of the present crisis, can bolster the democracy we all aspire to at this point in our lives, and can preserve the peace we want in order to achieve progress for ourselves and our children.

My conviction that a government of national reconciliation should be sought is thus reaffirmed, as is my belief that the government established should inspire the best in every Panamanian in order to obtain the results we seek and to continue working very close to our people, listening to them and respecting them in such a way as to achieve our national goals.

That is my position; this is the position I want to express at this moment of great happiness for us, of great personal satisfaction over the privilege accorded me by the Panamanian people to lead the national effort over the next 5 years.

I feel I have a total commitment to our people, a commitment that I will never fail. We will fulfill the platform that we presented to the country, working together and developing it on the basis of the information that our people all over the country have provided and will continue to provide to us so we can fulfill our platform in a way in which all can participate.

We are motivated by the best intentions, the best ideals, and our profound belief and faith in the Panamanian people. We are beginning a new era, a new era that involves a new generation of Panamanians, a new democratic era, a new era in which we will renew our efforts in light of what is happening in the world, in Central America, and in Latin America. We Panamanians have the nobility, the goodness, and the bravery to maintain peace, establish democracy, and pull the country through.

Thank you for this opportunity and good evening to all our countrymen.

Holds News Conference

PA172133 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1550 GMT 17 May 84

[News conference held by President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta, at the Panama Hilton Hotel in Panama City on 17 May -- live]

[Excerpts] [Ardito Barletta] Good morning, gentlemen. Thank you very much. On behalf of Dr Esquivel, Mr Del Valle, and myself, thank you for being with us this morning at this news conference.

We come here in a deeply Panamanian spirit, after having read the resolution that the Electoral Tribunal issued yesterday that confirms our triumph in the 6 May elections.

As we said a few days ago, we believe that this triumph expresses the Panamanian people's desire to work together to bring Panama out of the economic crisis that we are experiencing, with all the social consequences that it has brought, in order to return to the path of progress. This means that the Panamanian people want to achieve that goal through democratic institutions, which will be established in full as a result of these elections, in which the president and all of the legislators have been chosen by direct popular vote and in which the traditional democratic system composed of three branches of government, with its balances and counterbalances, will begin to function fully.

To us, this triumph reflects our desire to fulfill our government platform, which was based on four basic points: First, to make the democracy that we will begin to exercise complete, effective, stable, and operational. We will do this in a truly Panamanian spirit. I will be the president of all Panamanians. We will do this by seeking national reconciliation, by respecting all sectors of Panamanian society, by inviting all sectors to take part in our nation's developments, the solution of our problems, and in the debate of the options available to us. We will do it with the deep conviction that this time of national hardship, the result of the economic crisis in Panama, Latin America, and the world, will be the source of inspiration that will bring out the best in each Panamanian and that will enable us to overcome the situation.

The second point in our platform pertained to changes in Panama's economic policy, which are necessary to promote the creation of jobs, an increase in investments, productivity, and exports. We will devote ourselves to this task with the conviction that such an effort is necessary to obtain the results that the Panamanian people are expecting. We will also undertake the task of ensuring that all of the people, particularly our poor people, both urban and rural, receive the basic services. They want, need, and deserve to be integrated into our process of national development.

The third point is to strengthen democracy and to steer Panama's economy and social development toward a new course, through public administration that will be responsible, efficient, and above all, honest. It will give public servants stability and will search for the utmost professionalism in the administration's operation.

The fourth point is to develop a foreign policy that responds to the Panamanian's deepest aspirations. This means that our foreign policy should promote Panama's overall development, allow us to maintain the peace that we enjoy, and permit us to strengthen our independence in relation to all of the world's nations.

We will implement these four aspects of our platform with the realization that although a little over half of the voters voted for us, a little under half of the voters did not. Therefore, because I wish to be the president of all Panamanians, I repeat that we have received the message of both those who voted for us and those who did not. Thus, we open a wide and spacious door to all sectors that opposed us in this election, seeking a constructive dialogue by which to achieve, with the tools of dialogue, debate, and participation, the highest level of consensus on the direction necessary to help bring Panama out of its economic crisis. We will create jobs, provide social services for our people, and strengthen democracy as the vehicle and instrument for the Panamanian people's action and expression.

[(McLane) -- in English] Mr President, if you could answer a question in English for our North American audience. You've promised a government of national reconciliation.

[Ardito Barletta] Hm.

[(McLane)] Could you tell us what... [interrupted]

[Unidentified moderator -- in English] Your name, please, (?your name)?

[(McLane)] I'm sorry, (Charles McLane) from NBC. Can you tell us specifically what you are going to do to bring the opposition, ah, to give them a role to play in your government? Do you have specific steps in mind?

[Ardito Barletta -- in English] Surely. One thing we would do in the immediate future is to form a series of working groups around specific issues that are of national priority, in order to deepen our work in the kinds of actions, programs, and solutions which should be provided to those problems of our national life. I intend to invite to participate in those commissions not only representatives of the political parties that form our union, but also independent citizens of all walks of life who are outstanding because of their competence, experience, or knowledge, and also people that in effect are members of the opposition parties or have participated in the present elections with the opposition parties, so that we could together analyze the problems, look at the options, and recommend the solutions to those problems. I also leave open the possibility that people that have identified themselves with the opposition party may in effect participate in our government in different functions, either in commissions, or in administrative positions, or as advisers, so that in effect the open dialogue that we intend to carry out with all sectors of our population will be effective and will (?be a) significant participation to both (?parts), because I do believe that in order to maintain our peace and in order to strengthen a newly-born democracy, we need to obviously take into account that less than half of our voting population did not vote with us. And that's our intention. Our intention is, in effect, to initiate a new era for Panama, an era that will (?hit) frontally our economic and social problems and that will do everything possible through reconciliation, negotiation, dialogue, and compromise to strengthen our newly-born democratic process in all possible ways.

[Moreno Gongora, director of the Panamanian newspaper YA] Dr Ardito Barletta, 5 days after the elections, a high-ranking official on your working team made a statement for the newspaper YA in which he mentioned the concepts of national unity and national agreement. This was published 5 days after the election. I understand that you authorized this person to make such a statement.

[Ardito Barletta] Hm.

[Moreno Gongora] The next day you made your proclamation of national reconciliation and now you have repeated this idea. I would like to know whether this concept of national unity, understanding, and national reconciliation implies that your administration might include elements that opposed you during the political campaign, so that this national reconciliation might be achieved?

[Ardito Barletta] First of all, I would like to extend public recognition to Dr Arias for his participation in this campaign, which helped to bolster the country's democracy, because to this day he remains an important national leader. I invite the members of the parties that supported him to join efforts with us so that we can resolve our national problems.

The possibility that you mention does exist; it is open for the future and in time we will study that possibility. Naturally, my main commitment is to the parties that comprise the National Democratic Union [UNADE], which nominated me and led us to this victory, and with whom we share the platform that we have proposed to the country.

Our governmental effort, therefore, will be based primarily upon the UNADE's participation. I intend also to extend an invitation to the country's valuable independent elements, because the problems that we must solve are both complex and difficult, and we need our best efforts and our best talents. I am also leaving open the possibility that some agreement might be reached with the parties that opposed us so that, should those agreements be reached, they too may participate in the development of programs that will enable us to provide specific responses to our national problems.

[Nunez] Carlos Nunez of CRITICA. There are two aspects being discussed by the public, the people in the streets, the middle class. One of these involves a kind of clique that has become embedded in the revolutionary process in the last 10 or 12 years. The people want to know if you are going to break that clique. Your inauguration is about 130 days away, but the Panamanian people want immediate replies. You have created great expectation. You are a new face for the people, but the people want some things solved quickly. Is there a possibility that before you take office on 11 October some plans, particularly for national and foreign investment, will be implemented by the government, to see if the economy can be reactivated before you take office?

[Ardito Barletta] We have no commitment to any existing or imaginary current or past clique. We have a commitment to the country. Our efficacy will be based on the talent, experience, and working ability of those who will be our main collaborators. We must bear in mind that there are many talented and experienced individuals within the parties that comprise the UNADE.

We also have a commitment to the results that we obtain. We will not rest until we achieve specific results on our problems, because we think that this is what the people want.

As for your second question, of course we will respect Dr Jorge Illueca's presidency to its last moment. I will seek by all possible means, as president-elect, to support Dr Illueca's presidency to its last second, and we will try to support his efforts to successfully carry out his functions to the last minute of his presidency.

[Unidentified reporter] I am from the "Studio One" Program, Radio BB, and DPA of the FRG. You speak a lot about development. Yet development in this and the next decade has much to do with the reverted areas in the former Canal Zone. Since your economic views are already known, your foreign policy views are not known, what will your government's position be in the face of U.S. nonfulfillment of the treaties?

The second question is short and brief. I know the Panamanian people want to hear your answer. Do the UNADE parties have you tied to any political commitment in terms of the composition of the new cabinet?

[Artdito Barletta] As for the first question, we have already announced it in programs that we have prepared. We intend to make immediate use of the land, structures, and facilities in the areas that have reverted to Panama through the Torrijos-Carter Treaties for national development, specifically for the development of Colon and Panama City.

In this regard, we made very specific proposals during the campaign. For example, we proposed their use for industrial park areas, low-income and middle-income housing, for strengthening port areas that are vital to the economies of Colon and Panama City, and for improved transportation, housing, and job sources in Colon and Panama City.

We will also maintain our position of ensuring that our relationship with the United States is one of equal partners in the administration, maintenance and defense of the canal. We will maintain a constructive and honorable position of cooperation and defense of our national interests and our independence. Through this kind of relationship with the United States we will continue to defend, permanently and through various means and contacts, that which was established in the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, some key aspects of which, as we know, have been limited by the U.S. law that permitted the United States to implement those treaties. Therefore, we will continue our permanent negotiations, not only on the administration of the current canal and its improvement, but also to enforce all commitments involving the canal that are established in the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties.

Regarding your second question, I reiterate what I said before. The commitment of the UNADE, which nominated Mr Del Valle, Mr Esquivel and myself, is based upon a political platform of development that we submitted for the entire country's consideration. We reached agreement, above all else, on a number of objectives and ways of achieving those objectives that were reflected in that platform. We do not feel tied to any specific commitment in terms of distribution of public offices. What we do feel is a great satisfaction that there are professional people within these parties, great experience in the politics, administration, economics, and other areas. This will permit us to organize a government team that will respond actively to the country's needs. Therefore, I have great confidence in those parties' cadres and will obtain many of my main collaborators from them. At the same time, as I said before, in some necessary cases, we will invite independent groups to participate with us in government functions and we leave the door open for possible participation in solving specific problems to groups that are in the opposition today but that we know are groups of good faith, deep patriotism, talent, and experience, just as are the groups within the UNADE.

[Villagra Montalvo] Jose Manuel Villagra Montalvo of Radio Millonaria and Radio Diez. An article in the Electoral Code prohibits the use of state resources for political purposes. Do you think that your victory is legitimate? As a result of the incidents at the Legislative Palace, a family has been left without its breadwinner. We feel responsible for these events. What do you have to say about those events?

[Ardito Barletta] On your first question, we would not be here after receiving the official notice from the Electoral Tribunal about the counting of the votes contained in the tallies of the country's 40 electoral circuits if we did not feel that we are the legitimate winners of these elections.

As for the possible implication of your first sentence, we don't think that there have been serious abuses of the Electoral Code in terms of government support for our candidacy. In those cases that exist, I think that formal charges must be made. I think we must stop making superfluous and groundless accusations in our country. If accusations are made, they must be justified and filed before the appropriate organizations so that true responsibilities may be established. So, for those who think that there has been a violation of the Labor Code [as heard] by government officials for electoral objectives, I urge them to take their well-founded accusations to the appropriate courts, so that responsibilities can be established.

On your second question, several hours before the tragic events on the evening of Monday, 7 May, at a news conference similiar to this, I issued a national call for calm, patience, tranquillity wisdom, and peace, and I asked that we wait for the appropriate organizations to count the votes and to establish the winner. We did not proclaim ourselves winners, as other candidates did. We said only that according to our information, we thought we had won these elections but that we would wait for the verdict from the proper authorities. In a moment of great emotion such as that, when we all realized that these were very close and narrow elections, various groups went to the Legislative Palace to watch what was going on. We know that the first groups to arrive there were not ours. We know that the first groups to fill the stands in the building were not ours. We know that the first groups that booed those who were speaking there in fulfillment of their responsibilities were not ours. We know that the first groups that had to be called to order by the president of the National Vote Counting Board were not ours. We know that subsequently many people who identified with the UNADE parties went there and that by the end of the afternoon on Monday, 7 May, there were both ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] and UNADE groups outside, each chanting their slogans and making noise. We know that it is difficult to establish who began that totally deplorable and inexcusable violence. We know that there were armed people from both groups, and we know that shots were fired by both groups. All of this is inexcusable and lamentable. We have said this to the families of the people affected. We have offered them our support. We think that all of us who knew what was going on there and even those of us who did not know are responsible to a certain extent, and we all must continue to make great efforts to prevent a repetition of this kind of violence.

[Quinonez -- in English] John Quinonez of ABC news. Throughout the campaign, there have been some rather serious charges of vote-tampering and fraud, some from your party and some have come from the opposition. Independent sources within the Electoral College have told us that they saw 4,000 votes fabricated in your favor and thousands more that were lost or destroyed to the detriment of the candidacy of Dr Arias. My question to you is: Are you convinced that you won this election without any fraudulent influence from people who, perhaps without you knowing it, were working on your behalf?

[Ardito Barletta -- in English] I am, to the extent of the knowledge I have, totally convinced that the results of this election are legitimate. I think the Electoral Tribunal of Panama has expressed its verdict about those results. I wish that if you say that you have some sort of independent sources that are saying that that's not the case, that they will present formally their accusations, so they can be resolved. I think it is extremely important that in a close election such as ours, we don't just ventilate supposed accusations that are not formally presented and that are not backed up by the kind of information that would be necessary. I think the burden of the proof is on those people who make the accusations.

So you say that you have some information about those things; I would encourage you and them to present it clearly and formally and not just as a matter of hearsay. I think it is important for our country to maintain our credibility in our institutions and our legal system, and because of that we have been very respectful of the systems and the institutions established to guarantee that these elections are honest and legitimate. I honestly and frankly have no knowledge whatsoever of cases of any significance of violation of the total balloting in the country. We do have knowledge of many cases of actions of our opposition in many parts of the country that have had to do with the results of the elections, but we practice what we preach. I don't think that we should be talking about those things unless we think them to be really important, and then we present formally the cases about them. As you know, that has happened at the local level, where it should happen, at the circuit level, where it should happen, and local candidates and local representatives of the party have in effect presented those cases at the local level and many tables were not counted precisely because of those accusations, so that shows that the system is working as it was designed by our politicians, mainly of the opposition parties, when these laws were created in order to try to avoid those cases.

[Quinonez -- in English] How much influence will the military have in your cabinet, in your government?

[Ardito Barletta -- in English] No more influence that they would have with any other president in any other democracy. We are starting a new era, one in which we have sought a direct mandate from the people through this hard contested election and we all have compromised [as heard] an allegiance to the people who have elected us. We are committed to establish the true functioning of the democratic institutions, to maintain the preeminence of civilian authority in the function of the state, to encourage the National Guard to discharge their responsibility according to the Constitution and the law in the military, police, and security area, and we will also encourage them to continue improving their professionalism and to prepare themselves to carry out their duty in the defense of the canal.

[Ochoa] Remiro Ochoa from NOVOSTI. When you presented your foreign policy platform you mentioned strengthening independence. As a correspondent for the NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY, I would like to know whether Panama will remain within the nonaligned sphere, what will happen with Contadora, and whether you will maintain relations with all of the world's countries. Thank you.

[Ardito Barletta] Our foreign policy will seek to completely fulfill Panama's highest national interests. It will be the means of achieving Panama's highest national interests, which are the overall development of our people, the continuation of peace, an opening to the world, and the strengthening of our national independence. For us, this specifically involves continued participation in the Contadora Group to help Central American countries find the path to peace, respect for their borders, the defense of human rights, the consolidation of their democracy, and continued development for their peoples. This means that we will strengthen our relations with all of Latin America, for we are a part of Latin America. This also means that we will strengthen our constructive relations with the United States, with which we have a special relationship because of the joint Panama Canal operation. This means that we will strengthen our relations with Europe and Japan, who are some of the main users of the canal, which provides enormous economic benefits to our people. And this means that we will maintain our relations with the other countries of the world, particularly developing peoples, with whom we frequently identify in certain struggles at the world level to open new paths of development for our lesser developed peoples.

[Donaire Moyano] Humberto Donaire Moyano from Peru. We would like to know whst policy the Barletta administration will follow in facing the conflict in the region and in dealing with the Third World's debt? We have heard rumors about a moratorium. What will Dr Ardito Barletta's policy be toward all of the social and economic policies of the Latin American Continent?

[Ardito Barletta] Thank you for your question, Humberto, although I answered part of it earlier. On our participation within the Contadora Group and the total support that we will offer to the search for peace in Central America, I believe that the recently achieved agreement, although only one step, is a demonstration of the capacity and efficiency of the group, which must continue to work with perseverance, patience, creativity, and with the best possible diplomacy to get those who are in conflict to come to a negotiating table and to pursue effective peace plans for Central America.

As for the problems of Latin America's foreign debt, until recently I shared a responsibility that dealt with that problem. I don't think that this is the appropriate time to expound on this complex subject. All that I can say is that Latin America is doing its share to control and improve on the problem, which requires a worldwide economic recovery and open trade; then Latin American exports can recover, their prices can improve, and Latin America's economy can be made better. It is also necessary for Latin America to continue to receive foreign financing under better terms, so that it may continue to reorganize its debt and achieve two main things: to grow once again as an economy, generating jobs for its people; and to manage the payments on its foreign debts. The key to all of this is a worldwide recovery. The second key factor is additional financing -- less than in the past, but with more positive terms. We support this. We do not believe that a coalition of endebted countries is an effective mechanism for solving this problem. We do not believe that this would be a suitable means of achieving those objectives. We believe that each country must continue doing its own work to improve its situation, and we believe that responsible groups representing Latin American and developed countries, governments -- specifically, finance ministers and presidents of central banks -- must continue to meet and to coordinate efforts to solve these problems in a calm, quiet, and effective way. That is the path to follow, which we will support.

[Moderator] We thank the local and foreign correspondents for their attendance at this press conference on behalf of President-elect Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta, Vice President-elect Eric Arturo del Valle, and Second Vice President-elect Roderick Esquivel.

ARIAS TALKS TO MEDIA ABOUT TRIBUNAL DECISION

PA171636 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 May 84 p 1

[By Edwin Wald]

[Text] With his closest aides at his side, the opposition candidate for president, Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, yesterday told the local and international news media about the current situation.

After being informed that the secretary of the Electoral Tribunal had announced that Ardito Barletta is the "president-elect," Arias said emphatically: "God and the country know I am the president of the Republic. I am only a tool. I have done my part, and wherever I am called I will go."

The offices of the Democratic Opposition Alliance on Balboa Avenue were extremely hot.

The offices have been without electricity or communication since early in the morning, when electrical and telephone services were cut. Dr Arias rejected the "fraudulent results" of the Electoral Tribunal. He stated: "I don't accept those results. Let them do whatever they want.

He added: "I have won but they do not accept me." He scored "the police leadership, which is responsible for what has happened." He characterized General Noriega as "a cheat."

The three-time president of Panama foresees "difficult days for the country" because "the people are tired of so much mockery and could explode."

He finally said that "the people will decide how to respond to the electoral fraud and to the official violence."

HAVANA CONSULATE TEMPORARILY STOPS VISA ISSUE

PA171707 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 May 84 p 8 C

[By Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Text] The Panamanian Government "temporarily decided more than a month ago to stop issuing" visas at its consulate in Havana until "a more effective system" can be established to select the Cuban citizens who wish to travel to our country. Defense Forces Immigration Director Raul E. Roger told LA PRENSA that 2,000 to 2,500 Cubans currently reside in our country. Roger explained that our consular authorities in Cuba give special attention to each case. "First, visas are issued to persons who travel as part of a technological exchange, for example to our sugarmills and some tobacco industries. Since the port of Vacamonte began to operate, a large number of Cubans have come to service their own ships that dock there, and the Cuban use of the port is good business for Panama." In addition to those who come for the reasons just mentioned, "others come as tourists, and others with the idea of going to another country."

Roger denied that the Panamanian Government is supporting the 2,000 Cubans that are in our country. "Before our consuls issue a visa, they first analyze the economic status of the person who is coming to our country."

"Each one of these Cubans," Roger said, "is bringing in money, which altogether totals approximately 600,000 balboas per month." Roger denied that there is an exodus of Cubans to Panama, since following Mariel the Cuban Government has been more flexible in granting Cubans permission to leave. "At first there were no controls, but now it is absolutely under control," he said.

Roger termed false the accusations made against the Panamanian Government in relation to a "big business" in issuing visas, mainly at the consulate in Havana. "That is mere speculation. What is happening is very simple: All the paperwork is done by lawyers in our country and the other country concerned, and lawyers are expensive."

The immigration director said that we are not affected by the Cuban Government's ideology. "There is no smuggling of communist ideology into Panama because the persons who want to leave Cuba are precisely those who do not wish to live under the communist system and do not believe in communism."

COSTA RICA

MONGE DISCUSSES NICARAGUA, EUROPEAN TOUR

PA171423 Paris AFP in Spanish 1844 GMT 16 May 84

[By Paul Rutler]

[Text] San Jose, 16 May (AFP) -- President Luis Alberto Monge today said in San Jose that Costa Rica -- a country without armed forces -- has not been considering creating an army, and has not been pressured by the United States to do so.

During a press conference held 10 days prior to his tour of 11 European countries, Monge noted that "not having an army is a risk, but it is far better not having one."

"Our nation is currently in the eye of the Central American storm. We disapprove of the presence of Soviet -- as well as some of its allies -- and U.S. advisers in the region. Apparently Ronald Reagan's government only believes in a military solution in relation to Nicaragua," he added.

President Monge reiterated that the decisive battle for peace in Central America can only be waged with democracy. "Weapons can favor one group or the other for some time. but not for very long," he said.

Monge also protested the vast "international misinformation campaign promoted by Nicaragua." "In reality, Nicaragua has nothing to win by fighting against us. It is merely an idelogical campaign. Thus, they have mounted a campaign to make others believe that we are rearming ourselves, or that we are helping Commander (Eden) Pastora's anti-Sandinist forces," Monge added.

President Monge said that there are "unresolvable ideolological differences" between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. "In reality, our problems with Nicaragua are not new. We had them when dictator Anastasio Somoza ruled that country, and even before that," Monge said. "As an old proverb says, Costa Rica has three seasons: the dry season, the rainy season, and a third one, which is when we have problems with Nicaragua," he added. "However, we are neighbors, and therefore we must find peaceful solutions to our problems," he stressed.

He noted that the decision adopted by Costa Rica and Nicaragua in Panama City last Tuesday to create supervisory commission in charge of preventing tension between the two countries is the first step in this direction.

Monge then admitted that many countries, particularly in Europe, have expressed their solidarity with Nicaragua. "We are not questioning that, but we think that we deserve the same support, as we are waging great democratic battles against our internal economic and social crisis, which we must win without falling into violence," he warned. "European democracies should become aware of our position," he stressed.

In concluding, Monge said that during his European tour he will call for a "frank and reiterated moral solidarity" from these nations. He added that this solidarity is particularly necessary since European investors -- under the influence of the misinformation campaign against Costa Rica -- are not aware of our reality, and consider us part of the "risky" Central American area.

SOLANO OPTIMISTIC ON PANAMA TALKS RESULTS

PA171640 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon believes that any dialogue with Nicaragua intended to maintain peace is positive.

[Begin Solano recording] Any initiative intended to guarantee peace between the two nations is positive. I believe the time has arrived for all conscientious Costa Ricans to realize that it is necessary to make every effort to keep from becoming involved in the Central American violence. We do not like the Nicaraguan Government's system, but that is their problem. As civilized nations, we must try to find ways for peaceful coexistence. Costa Rica must dedicate all its economic and physical resources to solving the economic and social problems seriously affecting us at this time. [end recording]

Concerning the Costa Rican foreign minister's refusal to sign a nonaggression pact between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Solano commented:

[Begin recording] [Solano] I believe the foreign minister did the right thing. First, we must determine the attitude of a country. At present, a number of mistakes on the part of the Nicaraguan Government raise some doubts as to its good will in the relations with Costa Rica. As a peace-loving nation, Costa Rica has never considered attacking any country; therefore, there is no reason to sign a nonaggression pact with any country, because this would imply that at one time or another, we had considered such an aggression. I repeat, with Costa Rica's traditional peace policy there is no need to sign such a pact with Nicaragua or any other country. We could never be an aggressor, since we have no army.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think yesterday's agreement in Panama could be a mechanism to ease tensions?

[Solano] Let us hope so. Let us hope there was good faith on both sides. At least, I can say that Costa Rica acted in good faith. I repeat, I hope that mechanism may serve to guarantee the peace we need so urgently to get the country out of the economic and social problems seriously affecting us all. [end recording]

OIJ DIRECTOR ON ARMS FOUND IN CRASHED PLANE

PA180205 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] At a news conference yesterday afternoon, Minor Calvo, director of the Judicial Investigation Agency [OIJ], announced that the investigations conducted by that agency have helped to determine, among other things, that the plane that was involved in an accident in San Carlos on 24 March had a Canadian registration number. According to laboratory tests, the aircraft's registration number was CFTE, Charlie-Fox-Tango-Echo, from the Canadian registry.

According to Calvo, it is assumed, since there is no evidence that would enable us to make a categorical assertion, that seven people were on board the plane; four of them were Nicaraguans, the other three Salvadorans. Other elements suggest that the pilot of the aircraft was Renato Torrealba Toruno and that his co-polot was Milton Gutierrez Sacasa, both Nicaraguan.

According to the evidence collected by the OIJ in connection with the accident, which occurred on Valerio Hill, San Carlos, unidentified individuals removed the bodies and other things and set fire to the plane after it crashed into the hill. A group of ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] guerrillas arrived on the scene of the tragedy from camps located north of the San Juan River on Nicaraguan territory, and after removing the bodies, in order to bury them in Nicaraguan territory, they set fire to the plane's remnants. According to the OIJ authorities' information, despite the media's reports to the contrary, no Americans were on board the aircraft.

The OIJ director added that on the basis of depositions from several eyewitnesses at the court of investigation and arraignment in San Carlos, the aircraft had presumably flown in from Honduras. Its cargo included 500,000 rounds of ammunition, 400 pairs of boots, and many military uniforms. It has also been determined that the plane had flown over the Nicaraguan-Costa Rican border on several occasions to drop cargo, but that on none of the previous occasions when it carried out this operation did it land on Costa Rican soil.

Finally, Calvo said that he wanted it clearly understood -- as there has been abundant speculation in this connection -- that the investigations conducted by the OIJ leave no room to believe that the Costa Rican authorities are responsible for this incident.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT-ELECT BEGINS TOUR OF AREA COUNTRIES

PA171840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1652 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte has begun a tour of three Central American countries while a commission that includes members of the administration and of his Christian Democratic Party [PDC] organize his inaugural ceremony, which is scheduled to take place on 1 June.

Duarte and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, another PDC leader, will arrive this morning in Honduras, where he will meet with President Roberto Suazo Cordova. From Tegucigalpa he will travel directly to Guatemala, where he will hold talks with Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores and several members of his cabinet. On Friday morning he will leave for San Jose, Costa Rica, where he will meet with President Luis Alberto Monge. That same day, he will return to El Salvador, so that he can leave for the United States on Saturday.

Although no details about the subjects he will discuss with the other leaders have been disclosed, it is likely that they will review the situation on the isthmus, and that the president-elect will deliver to the presidents formal invitations to attend his inauguration.

During his 3-day stay in the United States, Duarte will meet with President Ronald Reagan, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and several congressmen. The International Affairs Council study group has invited Duarte to lecture on the Salvadoran situation.

These trips will be made prior to Duarte's inauguration as the new president of the Republic on 1 June. Duarte is the first Christian Democrat to rise to power through an electoral victory, following several attempts made since the party was first founded in 1961. Between 1980 and 1982 Duarte was president of the provisional junta that overthrew General Carlos Humberto Romero by means of a coup staged in 1979.

Official sources today announced that guests from some 40 countries have been invited to the inaugural ceremony for Duarte, Vice President-elect Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, and the appointed cabinet members. The events are scheduled to begin on Thursday 31 May and are to conclude on Saturday 2 June, even though the inaugural ceremony will be held on 1 June. Representatives of Alvaro Magana's outgoing administration and of the PDC are working on the details of this event, the site of which has not yet been determined.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL LEADERS URGE DIALOGUE

WA181200 Rome IPS in English 16 May 84

[Text] Caracas, Venezuela, May 16 (IPS) -- Four leaders of the Socialist International today urged Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte to open negotiations with opposition insurgents to end the country's four-year-old civil war. The call was contained in a letter made public here by former Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, one of the letter's signatories. The other three were former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Dominican Republic President Jose Francisco Pena Gomez. [title as received] They said Duarte had an "historic and patriotic responsibility" to open negotiations with the opposition alliance, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Democratic Revolutionary Front (FMLN-FDR).

Duarte's election in the May 6 presidential run-off vote, the letter said, was a triumph "of the democratic positions and longings of the Salvadoran people to live in peace." But the election changes neither the military situation on the ground in El Salvador between the government and the insurgent forces nor the "great social injustice" in the country, it continued. El Salvador, the letter added, "is a nation split in two halves...and it is illusory and reckless to expect that peace can be reached by demanding that one of the sides lay down their arms."

The four officials offered their help in bringing about talks with the opposition.

Perez, speaking to reporters, warned that the danger of a regional war is growing "ever closer" and said that an initiative to open negotiations is Duarte's "historic and moral obligation." He said the solution to the conflict in El Salvador should be worked out by the Salvadorans themselves, without foreign interference, but added that Contadora Group, the four Latin American nations seeking peace in the region, could provide support. "Contadora is a Latin American effort that the president-elect cannot reject," Perez added.

He was sharply critical of the U.S. Government, accusing President Ronald Reagan of militarizing Central America. Perez said U.S. support for the Contadora peace process "is only formal and is not reflected in the facts." The former Venezuelan president warned that if the United States intervenes militarily in the region, it would result in a polarization "whose consequences I do not want to imagine." That division, he said, would be between "communists and anti-communists, good and bad," and only the "ultra-rightists and militarists" would back Washington, leaving the Soviet Union as the sole victor from the conflict.

Regarding the general elections set for November in Nicaragua, Perez said they are "the beginning of a solution, but only when they are really democratic, as (the Sandinists) have promised. They must be given credibility."

U.S. NUNS CASE TO GO TO TRIAL AT END OF MONTH

PA170445 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 16 May 84 p 2

[Text] The trial jury in the case of the four murdered U.S. nuns will be sworn in tomorrow and the trial might take place at the end of this month, it was officially reported yesterday.

Judge Dr Bernardo Raiba Murcia, at the first penal court of Zacatecoluca, indicated that the case has been carefully considered. Court secretary Jose Anibal Jimenez has said that the indicted might be condemned and sentenced to 20 years in prison for each of the four murder charges filed against them.

The former national guardsmen to stand trial, who have been prisoners since February 1982, are Juan Antonio Colindres Aleman, Carlos Joaquin Contreras, Francisco Orlando Contreras, Jose Roberto Moreno Sanjur, and Daniel Canales. The trial has been delayed because of appeals and technicalities.

ARMY LOOKING FOR CUBAN-TRAINED REBELS IN EAST

PA180303 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0143 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (DPA) -- Government forces are being deployed to northern La Union Department, 200 km east of San Salvador, primarily in the areas of Nueva Esparta, Anamoros, Lislique, Poloros, El Sauce, Concepcion de Oriente, among others, in a combing operation, after having earlier dislodged guerrilla forces from those locations in brief battles, military sources in San Miguel, in eastern El Salvador, reported today.

It has been reported that the most important action is that of the Salvadoran Army's "Fantasma" Battalion in northeastern Morazan. It has begun to seek a new FMLN brigade named the "Bocas Negras." It is believed that three of that brigade's platoons, each containing 50 fighters, had been sent to Cuba to receive better training. Those who traveled to the Cuban training camps, the military sources added, are the FMLN's best fighters, who returned to El Salvador in an airplane that is known to have landed at a small airstrip some 45 days ago.

It has also been reported that a plane arrives in the country each month to deliver supplies to the guerrillas operating in the east. The supplies include weapons, ammunition, medicine, and clothing.

FMLN GROUPS CLAIM ATTACKS ON EX-MINISTER, STORE

PRTC Claims Berrios Attack

PA180215 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2344 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- An urban Salvadoran guerrilla command claimed responsibility today for the murder of Colonel Fernando Berrios Escobar, retired, last Tuesday. Berrios had been the director of a military hospital and a former health minister. He had been proposed for the latter post by the ultrarightist Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA.

The Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers, PRTC, claimed responsibility for the murder in communiques sent to news media. The PRTC is one of five groups that comprise the FMLN.

This group, which recently decided to concentrate its actions in San Salvador, also announced its intention to continue its attacks on people like Berrios who, according to the rebels, "are responsible for the death of our revolutionary companeros who died in the last few days." The PRTC gave no further details in this regard.

Berrios was killed by three shots while leaving a drugstore that he owned in downtown San Salvador. His wife, who was with him at the time, was seriously wounded.

Nietos Command Claims Robbery

PA172155 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Report by Leo Ramirez]

[Text] Good afternoon, YSU listeners. Here is the latest news: The Torres Nietos Command has claimed responsibility over the telephone for the attack today at approximately 1045 on the La Joya Jewelry Store on North 4th Ave in San Salvador. Employees of the store, which is owned by Miguel Shafer, said that at approximately 1045 today seven individuals armed with high-caliber weapons and dressed in civilian clothes entered the store and stole merchandise [words indistinct]. Asked the value of the stolen merchandise, employees said an inventory had not yet been made and the value was still unknown.

Another clandestine group also claiming to be part of the FMLN yesterday claimed responsibility for the murder of Colonel Luis Fernando Berrios Escobar, a physician, in a telephone call to our editor's office.

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY ABDUCT 80 YOUNGSTERS

PA170440 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 15 May 84 p 1

[Excerpts] A number of parents residing in EL Limon Canton, Soyapango jurisdiction, are deeply worried because last night a group of some 40 guerrillas, both men and women who were well armed and wearing olive drab uniforms, abducted 80 young people, both boys and girls, saying that it was an act of "revolutionary recruitment to fight the military."

Some of the kidnapped youngsters were stopped on the streets, while others were taken out of their homes and many others were taken from the 14 December School while attending night classes, some of the parents have reported to this paper. The names of these parent have been withheld. Informants have said that the guerrillas abducted most of the student by telling them that they would not be away from their homes for long and that they would able to return after listening to some lectures.

The parents who reported the abduction or "forced recruitment" carried out by the extremists said that the youngsters were taken in a cross-country march on foot in the direction of Tonacatepeque, where the guerrillas are known to have camps.

FDR'S UNGO VISITS ITALY, GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE

For EFE and AFP reportage on the visit to Italy by FDR leader and National Revolutionary Movement President Guillermo Ungo, including a press conference Ungo held in Rome and his statement that he is "willing to open talks with President-elect Jose Napolean Duarte to end the civil war," see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 18 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FARABUNDO MARTI ON RELOCATION OF REFUGEES

PA171253 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0100 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] In February of this year, Salvadoran refugees at the Honduran camp of Colomoncagua received a very peculiar visit. A group of ranking U.S. Army officers took time to visit the Colomoncagua Camp. The group of Gringos was comprised of two ranking officers of the U.S. Southern Command, a senator, and an official of the Gringo embassy in Honduras. What were these Gringos doing in a refugee camp?

The Gringos arrived in Colo -- the short name used by the refugees in referring to the Colomoncagua Camp -- within the framework of the plans forcefully relocating Salvadoran refugees in Honduras, devised by the Gringo government. They want to sweep refugee camps from the areas bordering El Salvador, moving the refugees away from their homeland. This project, sponsored by the Gringos and their reactionary organizations, like World Mission [Mision Mundial], is undoubtedly supported by Jose Napoleon Duarte, the headless puppet the Gringos have imposed in our country.

Where do they want to take our compatriots, the Salvadoran refugees in Honduras? They want to transfer them to Olanchito, deep inside Honduran territory. According to the Gringo plans, the forceful relocation of our brothers to Olanchito will take place in July and August, beginning with El Tesoro Camp, followed by San Antonio, Colomoncagua, and the others.

In all cases, the relocation will be carried out by force. Our refugee brothers have made public by all possible means their opposition to their transfer to Olanchito. For this reason, refugees have been subjected to many pressures in the past few months. They have used all kinds of [words indistinct] of the Honduran Army to terrify the Salvadoran refugees.

The Gringos want to clear the current refugee camps at the border with El Salvador to make the entire strip a camp for military attacks against our people. This is the reason for the so-called "Grenadier" maneuvers that are taking place in Honduras with the direct presence of U.S. troops.

Among other things, the plans call for the recruitment of Salvadoran youths, to force them to join the Honduran Army and the anti-Sandinist counterrevolutionary bands.

The relocation is unacceptable to our brothers. Their love for their fatherland and their people is stronger than any military siege.

GUATEMALA

DUARTE ARRIVES FOR 3-HOUR VISIT, MEETS MEJIA

PA172005 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1902 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived in Guatemala at noon today for an official 3-hour visit.

Duarte arrived at the international airport in Guatemala City at 1815 GMT, and was welcomed by Guatemalan Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade.

Duarte and his retinue immediately went to the Presidential Palace, next to the government house in downtown Guatemala City, for a meeting with Head of State General Oscar Mejia Victores.

Andrade told ACAN-EFE that the meeting between Duarte and Gen Mejia will be private, and that the two men will discuss topics of interest to their two countries and will review the conflicts in Central America.

COMMISSION CHARGES RIGHTS VIOLATIONS INCREASING

WA181410 Rome IPS in English 16 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, May 16 (IPS) -- The Mexico office of the Guatemalan Human Rights Commission reported here today that 1,300 illegal executions and 1,600 disappearances have taken place in Guatemala "in the last few months." "Violations against Guatemalans' human rights have increased alarmingly both in the countryside and the cities," the commission charged in a statement.

The organization also denounced an attack April 30 on a Guatemalan refugee camp in southern Mexico by men who appeared to be Guatemalan soldiers. Six refugees were killed in that attack on the El Chupadero Camp in the Mexican State of Chiapas.

The Mexican Government has sent two diplomatic messages to the military government in Guatemala demanding action on the incident, but Guatemala has denied responsibility in the matter. The Guatemalan regime maintains that the attackers were members of "subversive" groups who were dressed in Guatemalan Army uniforms.

The human rights commission condemned the attack, and confirmed testimony from refugees, who said the attackers were Guatemalan soldiers. "It is not the first time that we learn of this type of armed attacks against defenseless Guatemalan refugees in the border region," the statement said. The El Chupadero Camp, home to more than 3,000 refugees, is located less than 250 yards from the border with Guatemala.

The Human Rights Commission predicted that the "increasing" human rights abuses "by (Guatemalan) state security forces" will continue to force Guatemalans into refuge in neighboring countries. The Guatemalan Army uses "methods of terror" such as torture, illegal executions, and arrests of people who then disappear, the commission said, and "has started indiscriminate bombing and air attacks on civilian communities in various regions, particularly in the southwestern area" of Guatemala.

Mexican officials report that they began this week to relocate some of the 42,000 Guatemalan refugees who live in the 92 refugees camps with in the Chiapas border region.

The refugees are being evacuated to Campeche, north of their current homes, in regions which the government considers safer and more accessible.

In a second protest note May 14 to Guatemala over the El Chupadero attack, the Mexican Government called on Guatemalan Head of State Gen Oscar Mejia Victores to investigate the incident, and rejected Guatemala's previous response that Guatemalan soldiers did not carry out the killing. "The investigations carried out by Mexican authorities have confirmed that those guilty of the deed came from Guatemalan territory and returned there," the Mexican note said. "There has been no evidence...that the authors of those crimes were members of subversive factions, as the Guatemalan Government has maintained," the note added.

Among the victims at El Chupadero were a woman eight months pregnant and an 11-year-old boy who had been tortured and castrated, according to the investigators.

HONDURAS

DUARTE VISITS, DISCUSSES REGIONAL SITUATION

PA171842 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived in Tegucigalpa at 1515 GMT today for a 2-hour official visit. Duarte is accompanied by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, a personal security corps, and some officials of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party. Duarte was greeted at the airport in Honduras by Presidency Secretary Carlos Flores, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, and several members of the Honduran Government cabinet. Duarte was immediately escorted to the "Hernan Acosta Mejia" Airbase, where he will meet with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova to review bilateral and regional issues. Honduras and El Salvador still have pending the demarcation of 33.5 percent of their border, which they must settle by 1985; otherwise, the conflict will be brought before the International Court of Justice.

Duarte-Suazo Communique

PA180110 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1703 GMT 17 May 84

[Press communique issued by Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte and Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, in Tegucigalpa on 17 May -- read by announcer]

[Text] On 17 May, Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte paid a courtesy call on Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova. They had a cordial meeting in which various Central American issues were discussed. President-elect Duarte briefed President Suazo Cordova on the electoral process that concluded with the reaffirmation of the Salvadoran people's commitment to democracy, expressed freely at the polls on 6 May. Mr Duarte praised the Honduran process, which is the clearest example of what a nation is capable of doing for democracy, despite the various problems that frequently take place in response to destabilizing interests in the area.

For his part, the Honduran president expressed his firm conviction that the Salvadoran democratic process, manifested in the election of Mr Duarte, constitutes an exemplary demonstration of the highest principles of freedom and justice in America. On behalf of the Honduran Government, President Suazo offered his best wishes for the consolidation of democracy in El Salvador and Central America.

The two leaders reaffirmed their decision to work for the peace and general well-being of Central America, a task that will demand the highest efforts of all governments willing to support their people's interests. In this context, President-elect Duarte and President Suazo Cordova confirmed their agreement on the need to strengthen relations among the Central American nations on the basis of complete adherence to the principles of international law, democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights, interregional cooperation, the restructuring and strengthening of institutions created during the integrationist process, and, at the bilateral level, the reactivation of mechanisms permitting direct negotiation of a prompt border demarcation, in accordance with the General Peace Treaty of 1980.

They also agreed that the disproportionate military arming in the area causes concern and uncertainty, and stressed the need to adopt measures that will regulate and control it without endangering the security of the region's nations. In this context, they emphasized the importance of the efforts of the Contadora Group as an instrument that can promote a climate of peace and harmony in the area, in an international and regional context, without impeding the right of the Central American states, in the full exercise of their sovereignty, to resort to other bodies that might make peace and regional welfare attainable, in accordance with the aforementioned terms.

Finally, President-elect Duarte thanked President Suazo Cordova for the warmth with which he was received and invited the Honduran president to attend his inauguration as president on 1 June.

PAZ ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY ON FOREIGN POLICY

PA170430 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1623 GMT 16 May 84

[Statement delivered by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica to the National Assembly in Tegucigalpa, followed by a question-and-answer period -- live]

[Excerpts] [Paz Barnica] Mr President, Messrs Deputies: I am appearing before this sovereign representative body on my own initiative. I come before this illustrious Assembly to speak honestly and frankly, because the democratic and constitutional Government of Honduras has nothing to hide. I have voluntarily asked the president of the national congress to permit me to explain to the honorable deputies my viewpoints on and opinions of some criticism that has been expressed in an isolated and limited way about the dissemination of Honduras' foreign policy through the trips that the foreign secretary makes to various countries with which we maintain fraternal relations.

The Honduran Government's foreign policy -- that is, the orderly and coherent set of principles and guidelines that guide the state's international conduct -- responds to regional problems and defines a national position that reflects the goal of and desire for peace for our people. That foreign policy has four great objectives, all of the utmost importance: the search for peace, the promotion and strengthening of democracy, the reestablishment of the terms of security in the Central American region, and the achievement of greater international cooperation for economic and social development.

If the implementation of foreign policy normally forces the foreign secretary to make frequent trips abroad for the purpose of undertaking the necessary contacts to achieve foreign policy objectives, the dramatic economic crisis currently being experienced by our country -- which is a result of external factors, to a great extent -- and the grave political situation affecting the Central American isthmus, which threatens to involve the entire region in a conflict with unknown repercussions, make the increase of those contacts imperative at this time.

From the day I took office as the secretary of foreign relations, the responsibilities that the post entails have forced me to travel abroad 40 times. Of these trips, 10 have been for the purpose of attending meetings within the framework of the Contadora Group's peace negotiations and 5 have been visits to presidents and foreign ministers involved in that negotiating process, to hold talks on those very important negotiations. I think it is evident that those trips were necessary. I don't think anyone can argue otherwise. There is no more urgent current task than that involving the preservation of peace, the establishment of mechanisms to make it a lasting peace, and the democratization of the region.

Seven trips were made as the representative of the president of the Republic to attend the inauguration of presidents of friendly democratic nations or in response to invitations to visit those countries. Those occasions are particularly valuable, because they permit one to establish contact with the new rulers who take office in the posts to which the people elected them, giving one the opportunity to establish, from that moment, relations of friendship and trust and to begin or to continue a dialogue or negotiations that will help to promote our foreign policy.

The complexity of the modern world, the obvious interrelationship between the political and the economic, and the need to coordinate the actions of the various state secretariats also make it necessary for the foreign secretary to attend meetings whose essential objectives are economic. On five occasions I had to attend such conferences as the sixth UNCTAD session and its preparatory meetings and the meeting for the social and economic development of Central America called the Brussels Interagency meeting.

Mr President, Messrs Deputies, to conclude, I want to state that as an official who understands his duties to the Honduran people and who has nothing to hide from them, I have thought it opportune, in my respect for the popular origins of this government, to present this report to the legislative chamber, whose members I thank for their attention, since as foreign relations secretary of our fatherland's constitutional and democratic government I would rather be criticized for excessive activity than be blamed for not doing everything in our power to defend Honduras' interests through our foreign policy. Thank you, Mr President.

[Christian Democratic Deputy Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga] We will begin with the main point, which is the objective of the trips that the foreign secretary has justified here and that involve our country's image. The government has insisted on and has presented a policy of internationalization of peace. Our party has repeatedly stated that it supports that initiative on internationalizing peace, because it believes that this policy has valid points that coincide with our party's desires for peace.

Unfortunately, Honduran people, fellow deputies, we find incongruity between what is said and what is done. It is this very thing that we have criticized. We have criticized not the content but the implementation of the country's foreign policy. We have criticized what has actually been done. We observe that parallel to that desire to internationalize peace, there is an accelerated military buildup, with an increasing foreign presence in our country.

There has been an increase in U.S. military aid to Honduras. In 1980 that aid amounted to $4 million. In 1984, it is $41 million, without including all of the costs of the installations I have mentioned. Of course, Mr President, Mr Foreign Secretary, Honduran people, we cannot ignore the fact that there is an arms buildup in Central America and that our neighbor, Nicaragua, is also engaged in an arms buildup that is also a threat to peace.

A very important issue is the covert, or perhaps no longer so covert, action by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency in support of anti-Nicaraguan Government insurgent groups, whose members number some 7,500 and might increase to 15,000, in accordance with the Reagan administration's plans. This is no secret, nor is it something that we are making up.

Honduran foreign policy thus responds more to U.S. strategic interests in Central America and the Caribbean than to the sovereign interests of Honduras as a nation. In truth, we are a country that is used by the United States, through the Pentagon, to implement a foreign policy that is not ours. It has been clearly seen that the U.S. ambassador has publicly intervened in the creation of this policy.

I think that these are some of the points that tarnish our image abroad. We are opposed to war. A weak and vulnerable country like ours cannot play with that option. We support all of the measures to preserve and defend our territorial integrity. We vigorously condemn the death of Hondurans as a result of a rash and clearly provocative attitude held by Nicaragua, but we must not ignore the fact that the heavy U.S. military presence in Honduras can provoke unnecessary friction that could possibly lead to an incident serving to light the spark of a conflict we will all regret.

I do not doubt the good intentions of the foreign secretary. I know that he and his team have made efforts to project Honduras' image abroad. I also recognize that pressures are exerted on the Honduran Government. But there is still time to straighten the course of that foreign policy, so that there will be a national desire to support it.

[Paz Barnica] Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga has strayed from the subject that was mentioned for this appearance in both the request and the note in reply to the foreign secretary from the president of the Congress. Nevertheless, I believe it is opportune that I express some views in response to what he has just said. I wish to thank Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga for his remarks about the good intentions of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat.

I would also like to refer to other views expressed by Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga to the effect that Honduras is not really independent. We must examine independence from an objective, doctrinal, political, and legal viewpoint.

The current Honduran Government has never been indifferent to a peaceful solution of the Central American conflict. We have always sought the mechanisms for a peaceful solution, contrary to what Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga has stated. Our participation in the Contadora Group is very clear. We have the documents containing the proposals formulated by Honduras to find an overall and regional solution. A few weeks ago, the most recent foreign ministers' meeting was held in Panama. It was clearly established there and in the Contadora Group's working commissions that it was Nicaragua that vetoed all decisions intended to secure an overall and regional solution, in accordance with the Document of Objectives approved by the Contadora Group.

To understand the Central American crisis we must analyze it completely and as a whole. In the same way, in order to understand the difficulties in Nicaraguan-Honduran relations, one must understand that in some countries, like Nicaragua, there are internal conflicts, and that Honduras has been affected by these internal conflicts in neighboring countries.

I imagine that upon hearing the statement by Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga, the nine commanders [of Nicaragua] must be enthusiastically applauding him. I don't think any good Honduran should express extremely biased opinions. If one does not take the overall situation into account, one falls victim to prejudices that tend to weaken the position of one's own country and to benefit its adversaries.

As for the foreign military presence in Honduras, how we would like it if that military presence did not exist! But we live in a crisis, in a political conflict in Central America that has clear military connotations, given that the balance of security was upset in the region by Nicaragua's excessive arms buildup. Deputy Diaz Arrivillaga did not mention clearly, nor with the enthusiasm with which he referred to the U.S. presence, the Soviet, Cuban, GDR, Czechoslovak, Bulgarian, Libyan, and other countries' presence, which with a clearly totalitarian trend seeks, through Nicaragua, to destabilize democratic institutions in the democratic Central American countries.

The important thing is to understand that the U.S. military presence must be limited. In other words, it must fulfill two objectives: to provide technical training to the Honduran Armed Forces, which, in recent years and particularly in the last few months, have demonstrated their peaceful inclinations and their deeply rooted democratic convictions; and to be a deterrent factor in the face of the Nicaraguan threat, so as to strengthen Honduras' negotiating capacity in the efforts for peace in Central America within the framework of the Contadora Group.

NICARAGUA

D'ESCOTO ON POSSIBLE AGREEMENT WITH HONDURAS

PA171725 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Our foreign minister, Miguel D'Escoto Brockman, tonight stated that the signing of a joint agreement between Honduras and Nicaragua similar to that signed with Costa Rica -- under the auspices of the Contadora Group - would be useful and advisable.

Upon his return from Panama, where he met with his Costa Rican counterpart, Carlos Jose Gutierrez, D'Escoto Brockman stressed the importance of the commission to supervise and prevent border incidents agreed to by the two nations. Here we have the interesting news conference held by our foreign minister at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport:

[Begin recording] [Cabrera] Luis Cabrera of La Voz de Nicaragua. How do you view the participation of the Contadora Group in the signing of this document, and what will be the mechanisms to be used beginning on 26 May, when the commission is installed in Penas Blancas?

[D'Escoto] I feel that the participation of Contadora has been decisive and absolutely indispensable. The fact that this agreement was reached clearly shows the willingness of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the honest search for peace. However, under the present circumstances, it would not have been possible, to be honest, to hold this meeting with the possibility of success it has had, without the active participation of the Contadoral Group, which convoked the meeting. In addition, I feel that this agreement is one of the most important, clear, and specific achievements of the Contadora Group since its creation.

[Gonzalez] Nick Gonzalez of EL NUEVO DIARIO. Since you have described this as a success, my question is: Will the Nicaraguan Government have a similar offer for the Honduran Government, with which tensions are higher? Will Nicaragua offer to Honduras, through the Contadora Group, a similar agreement?

[D'Escoto] First of all, we've made proposals to Honduras before. I believe it would be very useful and advisable to have a similar agreement with Honduras. It is possible that the Contadora Group will make the proposal. However, the situation with Honduras is much more difficult. As we have repeatedly stated -- although it is painful to repeat it -- the fact is that that brother country has pawned its sovereignty. It is a country that is occupied politically and militarily. It is involved in a process that may lead to shaking off the yoke of U.S. domination, thus permitting Honduras to take a path its people want. The Honduran people do not want the United States to use their country as an instrument in the war it is waging against Nicaragua.

In the case of Honduras, not only is its territory being used, but there is increasing involvement by its troops in military actions against our people. But to answer briefly, it would be very good to reach a similar agreement with Honduras [words indistinct] possibility that it be reached although I think that at this precise moment it will be more difficult or much more difficult than it was with Costa Rica.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that the creation of this commission is somehow a defeat for the interventionist and obstructionist policy of the United States against the work of the Contador Group?

[D'Escoto] I think Otero, that it is evident that the United States has suffered a setback with the creation of this commission and it also shows the difference between the United States and the Latin American countries -- the Contadora Group on one side and Costa Rica and Nicaragua on the other. It also shows that all the countries and the governments are convinced of what the people in the streets are convinced: That it is a war artifically fomented and created by the United States. People are fed up with it. They want an end to it.

[Zamora] Guillermo Zamora, NOTIMEX. I want to switch the topic. What is your opinion of President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to Washington?

[D'Escoto] I think it is a very important visit. We believe that Mexico, as a country, and President de la Madrid, as a person, truly have a prestigious image abroad. They represent a vanguard in the foreign policy of Latin America. I also think that Mexico is a country which the United States must listen to. There are many other countries they won't even talk with seriously and systematically. However, they must listen to and respect Mexico. I harbor many hopes that, as a result of this visit, perhaps the situation will improve a little. I am sure that President Reagan will at least listen to some very wise words, which we hope he will take seriously and reflect on. It he does so, we can hope that the path of U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America, and Central America in particular, will change. [end recording]

COMMUNIQUE ALLEGES, PROTESTS ARDE BORDER ATTACKS

PA171410 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Mercenary forces of the so-called ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] perpetrated armed attacks on the Costa Rican border against Penas Blancas, (La Pimienta), and Boca de Sapoa, the Information and Press Directorate of Government House has announced. The attacks began at 2100.

In an energetic communique, the Nicaraguan Government expressed its believe that this was a provocation by the CIA and its ARDE mercenaries in their effort to sabotage the Contadora Group's efforts, which resulted in the agreements reached in Panama by the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican delegations, led by their respective foreign ministers.

This action seeks to silence the Costa Rican people's rejection of the warmongering policy characterized by confrontation, which threatens the neutrality policy proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge and defended by the Costa Rican people, the Nicaraguan Government and people, and the international community, said the communique issued by Government House.

ORTEGA CONGRATULATES PANAMANIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA180125 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 84

[Telegram sent by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, to Nicolas Ardito Barletta, president-elect of the Republic of Panama, on 17 May]

[Text] Your Excellency Nicolas Ardito Barletta, president-elect of the Republic of Panama.

Dear Friend:

On behalf of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and of the Nicaraguan people, I congratulate you on your recent election as president of the Republic of Panama.

We are confident that from your high position, you will firmly support the Contadora Group's peace efforts, so that the search for political and negotiated solutions to the grave Central American crisis can continue to advance.

In the same way, I would like to express our confidence that during your presidential term the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples and Governments of Panama and Nicaragua will be strengthened, and that Panama's solidarity with the Nicaraguan people's just cause will be given a new impetus, which will help our people to consolidate what we have accomplished during 5 years of revolution.

Similarly, the Nicaraguan people and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction will continue to give our solidarity to the just demands and aspirations of the Panamanian people, once interpreted and promoted by General Omar Torrijos, in favor of dignity, sovereignty, and self-determination.

In reiterating our heartfelt congratulations, we express our best wishes to you and the Panamanian people.

Fraternally,

[Signed] Daniel Ortega Saavedra

ARDE REPORTEDLY DIVIDED OVER UNITY WITH FDN

PA180414 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 17 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Sources in the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, have told ACAN-EFE in San Jose that the organization, which operates in southern Nicaragua, is suffering from "rifts."

Sources close to ARDE's national directorate, who asked not to be identified, have confirmed for ACAN-EFE that the current problems are much more serious than those of the November 1983 crisis, and indicated that these problems "might lead to the virtual disintegration of the organization."

According to our informants, ARDE's current problems are of a political nature, although they can affect military operations.

ARDE's activities are twofold: There is a military sector led by Commander Eden Pastora, which fights the Sandinist Army from its bases along the San Juan River on the border, and a political sector led by Alfonso Robelo in San Jose.

The main cause of the divergence is the issue of unity of the two anti-Sandinist groups, ARDE and the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, which operates in northern Nicaragua, near the Honduran border.

For months, the FDN has been trying to achieve unity with ARDE so that the armed and political actions of both may be coordinated, according to the sources.

Pastora has opposed this unity on the basis of "the FDN's poor image among the Nicaraguan people because of the Somozists in its ranks."

According to the source, there are three schools of opinion within ARDE on the issue.

One is that held by Pastora and his Sandino Revolutionary Front, FRS. Pastora seems to be of the opinion that, although he basically approves of the unity, it is not of the utmost importance at the moment. The most important thing is military logistical support from the FDN, with which to continue the war.

Conversely, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement, MDN, Robelo's party, is deeply committed to the unity, a fact that provoked a deep crisis in ARDE last November.

Our sources reported that a "rightist" faction also exists that insists on immediate unity and that has threatened to withdraw from ARDE if this doesn't happen, though a minority sector of this faction supports Pastora's ideas.

5TH MEETING OF PARTY FAR SECRETARIES CONTINUES

FL171200 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The fifth meeting of party secretaries in the FAR will end today in the city of Havana after 3 days' work. Yesterday was dedicated to the work done by the following three committees: the Party Organizing Committee, Ideological Committee, and Political Cadre Committee. At the first session it was stressed that the political organizations had worked to officially carry out the missions and tasks assigned by linking them to the missions of the units. The Ideological Committee studied the results and it was demonstrated that the work of the leaders, political workers, and party and UJC organizations is of the greatest importance in achieving heightened political awareness. The third committee discussed matters related to the training, selection, placements, promotion, and advanced training of political cadres in correspondence with guidelines provided by party congresses and instructions received from the FAR minister.

MTT TROOPS HOLD FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES

FL171936 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Operation (Corintia), from a troop location with students from the National School of the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] -- In irregular action, which recalls the life of Commander Gustavo Machin, the Alejandro of Che Guevara's guerrilla campaign for whom the center is named, our militia members prepare for warfare by all the people. Our reporter Rafael Ramirez reports on this field training by means of the technology of the communications troops.

[Begin remote report -- live or recorded] From a war zone alive with male and female militia members who are experiencing the most diverse combat situations in a gathering with special characteristics for the training of the MTT.

Here, the song of crickets and nocturnal birds bring the panorama to life during the late-night hours in this mountainous area. During the daytime, the crisscrossing of wood pigeons and thrushes and a variety of our fauna, along with the denseness of the forest, form an authentic jungle, where the militia member feels like a true guerrilla fighter. From all that, we gather that Operation (Corintia) is being conducted in the climate of a struggle for survival and there is not the slightest doubt that the exercise will be a success.

The militia members who are taking part in Operation (Corintia) also salute Peasant's Day by increasing their level of combat readiness and with it they are prepared to unleash a war by all the people. Teachers and students on one side and the hypothetical enemies on the other prepare to unleash at a moment's notice the bloody fighting which will only have one result -- the preparation of our militia members for war by all the people. [end remote report]

CASTRO ATTENDS MEDICAL STUDENTS CONFERENCE

FL051826 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 May 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Party Central Committee, is presiding over the national conference of medical science students, which opened a few minutes ago in Havana's Palace of Conventions.

The activity began with the symbolic calling of the roll of the martyrs and heroes from the medical field. In the opening speech, Olga Maria Oceja, president of the Federation of University Students [FEU], stated that the objective of the event is to analyze how students in this field have fulfilled the tasks assigned to them by the party, the revolution, and Fidel. Later, the 295 delegates in a plenary session began to discuss the work of the members of the Carlos J. Finlay Detachment, the (Mario Munoz) Advance Brigade, the senior students in the internationalist rural efforts, and those in dentistry who are combining education with helping others.

Other members of the Politburo and the Council of State, leaders of the UJC [Union of Young Communists], and FEU leaders were also present.

Text of Castro Speech

FL142258 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 13 May 84

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the National Conference of Medical Science Students, held in Havana's Palace of Conventions on 5 May 1984 -- recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades: It is not easy to make the closing remarks of a meeting so rich in the discussions which have taken place today. Throughout the day I took notes of the various topics in a chronological order. I have taken notes of many of the important ones.

Here someone referred to the final tests and the systematic lack of evaluation in some classes or by some professors. The extraordinary importance of Cuban textbooks has been noted. It was even stated -- with very sound judgement -- that a new experience is being developed. Also mentioned were the importance of the work of a group of authors, the idea of developing contests of knowledge, the need [words indistinct], the importance of the work at the brigade level, at the rank and file level, the importance of the bibliography -- not only of Cuban authors, but also foreign authors, many of whom have recognized and unquestionable authority in the subjects. We should try to benefit ourselves not only from our experience but also from everyone's experience. Of course, the conditions under which medicine develops in many countries must be taken into consideration. We should not support the idea that pregnant women may smoke because it says so in a textbook which is good and famous in other matters.

[Words indistinct] on evaluation, difficulties in the distribution of books, which I believe also exist in the distribution of magazines. [laughter] [Passage indistinct] There is a need for a drive in dental health, the importance of learning, learning to think, learning to study, the problems dealing with the relationship between professor and student, demand of the dentists [words indistinct], the need to raise the sector's [words indistinct]. There is a need to have a number of measures dealing with fraud, of course, beginning with the idea of the existence of a fraudulent potential in those who do not attend classes, who are finalists [study for final exams only] and who become potential perpetrators of frauds, the need to struggle as a precaution against all those factors which engender fraud, even though -- as has been noted here -- the number of fraud cases has been small, very small. [Passage indistinct] Whoever has attended a meeting such as this would have strong reasons to believe that the battle against fraud is being won, and that it is becoming increasingly difficult and increasingly morally unacceptable that a student of medical sciences would perpetrate a fraud.

[Other topics discussed here were] the need to improve the training of interns, the importance of municipal and rural internships. There were references to therapeutic procedures. The possible convenience of initiating therapeutic procedures in the second year was mentioned, but this has to be given profound thought. This could intensify the problem of crowding at the hospitals. The number of cases would diminish, and the student taking basic sciences does not have the basic knowledge and could not handle this type of study, practical studies in the second year. That is why this must be given a lot of thought.

The difference between the provincial and municipal hospitals was noted here. [Passage indistinct] There was enthusiasm in citing the advantages the municipal hospital has over the provincial because of the amount of work it has. Matters dealing with treatment and sensibility with the patients was taken up. Also noted was a very important point; the one dealing with the need to raise the quality of the paramedics.

[Words indistinct] reviews of their efforts, their achievements, their difficulties, as well as their importance. It is my understanding that some pepole favor making it into a national review. A few other important points were mentioned. It would not be possible to comment on all of them. [Words indistinct] but the most important have been mentioned. We should not judge the results of this meeting by the work done today. [Words indistinct] at the base, in the brigades, with the almost universal participation of all the students of medical sciences, the comrades of the FEU [Federation of University Students] and of the youth [words indistinct] all the problems formulated. It seems that they take into account not only what has been said here today but everything that has been said throughout this process in basic discussions. They collected all the formulations of one kind or another. They collected [words indistinct]. I believe that material must be enriched now with the points that have been considered here.

And some of the formulations that do not seem very rational to us should be excluded. [Passage indistinct] For example, it has been made clear that it is apparently impossible -- it is neither practical not logical -- to examine students on a rotational basis at the Piti Fajardo. Because they already have daily activity [words indistinct] general medicine constantly. And as a professor has explained to us here, the graduating class was excellent. [Passage indistinct] They have demonstrated that they successfully passed the test. Rotation by specialties is not the same in the provinces, where you go to the maternity hospital and to the children's hospital, as it is where everything -- the buildings -- is all together. I believe that a formulation of that kind should not be included in the final material.

I also read the FEU document that suggested in some province -- I do not know whether it was in Las Tunas -- the question of whether the tour of duty of Piti Fajardo graduates in rural communities should be reduced to only 2 years. This does not seem reasonable to us either because, first of all, the students of the internationalist contingent that went to Nicaragua [words indistinct], Western Sahara or Ethiopia, after having graduated. [Passage indistinct] Some were brought back after finishing their internship and others the first year. But in principle, 2 years after graduation was agreed upon. And there are others who should stay 3 years at Piti Fajardo. And we should also hope that in the future, there are doctors [words indistinct].

Let us have specialists in the rural communities who remain there and who can serve as professors of the interns. Because nowadays they have to go but, in the future, presumably the rotations in those specialties can be completed in the rural hospitals with the support of professors who are specialists. This type of formulation should not be included in the final document, formulations that obviously are illogical or clearly inappropriate. I believe it would also be inappropriate to propose the idea that we do with dentists what we are doing with the doctors. [Passage indistinct]

We suppose that, with the passage of time, medical needs will increase because average life expectancy is increasing. But dental needs should tend to decrease if we really apply preventive medicine rigorously. There will always be dental needs, of course, but they will not be proportional to the medical needs that we are going to have. Bear in mind that the number of family doctors is going to increase to at least 20,000. We should be thinking about 20,000 dentists to put one beside each doctor. And the problem of the dentist is not the same as the problem of the doctor. [Words indistinct] serious, fatal if it is not taken care of immediately. Dental problems can wait for hours, they can wait for a day. They have other characteristics. [changes thought] It would not be rational. We have thought a lot about this problem. Perhaps in a community of 1,000 persons or 1,500 or 2,000, in a rural area, it would be possible to apply the same concept in order to have the dentist nearby. But it would not be rational to have him here in the city [words indistinct] where they have the possibility of going to the polyclinic.

It is evident that we will have to give some basic training in general medicine to the dentists. [Words indistinct] basic training in dentistry to family doctors and make them into supporters of dentistry and not only of vaccination campaigns and other problems, and not only of general hygiene, but also of dental hygiene and preventive dental campaigns. It will be necessary to think about giving them [words indistinct] in a certain order.

But the formulation of the aspirations of dentists has made us ponder. And we have been thinking that the number of dental students who have registered in recent years is too small. We can make certain estimates on future needs. Perhaps we should double the number of dental students registering so that, when there is a possibility of providing those services in areas in which it is rational to provide them because of the distance to cities -- especially in rural reas -- perhaps at a few large important factories, we can apply that principle. We must ponder the argument that dentists need dental equipment. I used to tell our comrades that equipment can be bought but dentists cannot be imported. We have to develop and train them in our country. It is evident that the number of students who enter dental school [words indistinct] if we really develop ideas on a way to expand this service.

The following situation exists with internationalist missions: [words indistinct] providing medical assistance in Third World countries. They have very urgent needs. They have assigned priorities to their medical needs. [Passage indistinct] Today, since they have assigned priorities to life-and-death health matters -- really, there is a great demand for medical services in the Third World, and there is no such demand for dentists -- in practice it is not possible to imagine a large detachment of dental internationalists. That is, it does not depend on us. But I believe that the points brought up by the dentists that are applicable [words indistinct]. Matters related to the specialty of dentistry were brought up. A medical student said he knew nothing about maxillary surgery [words indistinct]. Those problems have been brought up and presumably this is a problem for the dentists to solve, dental specialists. But perhaps it is a field that can be shared by the two.

It is necessary to stress the importance of dentistry because it is intimately related to health. Often, when doctors do not find the cause of an infection [words indistinct] and they cannot detect it, they immediately look at the mouth to see if it is the origin of a focus of infection, headaches, and other problems sometimes involving the kidneys. They try to determine if it has something to do with the mouth and, especially, because digestion begins in the mouth, mastication, etc, it is very important in health matters. It is necessary to emphasize the importance of dentistry and to continue developing ideas on how this activity should evolve in future years and on what ideas are going to appear [words indistinct] family doctor can also be applied to dentistry, although I repeat that they cannot be exactly the same.

It is desirable that the document that records the results of this entire process and today's meeting be printed -- and not only printed but delivered and distributed -- [laughter] so that these ideas reach everywhere. In the first place, [they should go] to professors, university schools, hospitals; in short, everywhere that these ideas should be available, because we need the cooperation of many to implement them, (?the ideas) that have been expressed here.

We have had two meetings of professors recently and now we have this student meeting. You certainly know of many matters presented to the professorial meeting. Now the professors should hear about all matters discussed here, in addition to the Department of Medical Education, the comrades, the rectors, and all personnel that should study problems related to evaluations, the need to unify criteria [words indistinct]. Although, as you have pointed out, many problems do not depend on the institution or on others but rather on the students themselves -- at work, at the FEU, with the brigades, with the basic youth organizations -- they depend on you.

[Passage indistinct] This meeting has clarified the need for a greater effort in the training of students who are going to enter medical school and universities in general. Because what is fitting for medical school is absolutely applicable to the school of technology and to any other university school.

We have made great progress in the field of education, in the quality of education, the improvement of study programs, but in a meeting like this, despite the great progress achieved -- and we are aware that we have achieved much progress in many fields -- it is possible to note that we still have a very long way to go. For this reason we cannot be conformist; we still have a world of progress to make in the field of education.

People are unaware of our great achievements, which started about 1970 or 1971 when 70 percent of all teachers still had no degree. The student population explosion, the need to create a pedagogical detachment which was to a degree the inspiration for the idea [words indistinct] the detachment of medical sciences.

Tens of thousands of teachers have been trained. We now have 230,000 [words indistinct] about 250,000 teachers. We have 250,000. If I am not mistaken, there were 150,000 student teachers, but I am not sure now whether this figure includes the students -- not the teachers who are studying -- but the students who are studying to become teachers. There is an enormous effort to obtain advanced training. Grade school teachers by the thousands are working for their masters degrees in primary education. This is unquestionably an enormous advance if we compare it to those years in which 70 percent had no degree. And this has happened in just a few years. [Passage indistinct] We have a shortage of 5,000 physics and chemistry teachers, a deficit of 5,000, and they tell me that we have graduated tens of thousands.

This is a sympton. [Passage indistinct] Comrade Fernandez has explained to me that they have a plan for those that graduate [words indistinct] to continue studying, to provide them with incentives to continue their study of these subjects. [Words indistinct] history, literature, without suggesting these subjects at all, in a country that has to develop, that has to master technology, which is essential for everything else. Because if we talk about becoming a medical power and a power in education and a power [words indistinct] means also to become an economic power and have a material base, with industrial and scientific development and a firm economy. Each day it is more evident that a complete mastery of exact and technical sciences is needed to be assured of an adequate economic development.

It reflects badly on us that our nation's culture, our people, and our youth still do not appreciate the importance and value of exact sciences such as physics, mathematics, and chemistry. These are the holes in our knowledge which still must be filled. We have made great advances in education and medical fields and we must make the same effort in technology. We must increase the number of technology students so that in the future we will have almost double the number of students enrolled in technology as we do in medicine -- perhaps even more than double because we have made accurate forecasts of the number of doctors we will need, based on plans which have been developed.

We continue to need electrical, civil, and industrial engineers, etc. Some of us have been studying the need to emphasize and make a special effort in the field of technology, such as the one we made in medicine. We must examine the equipment, laboratories, present and future resources, and how to develop this field so that in the future, around the year 1990, we will have approximately 50,000 technology students. To achieve this, we must make an effort, like the one we made in the medical field, to advance brilliantly with visible results. We must do this in the field of technology because, to reach these goals, we need development in this area, similar to the one which we will have in the medical field. All engineers must give support to the production of equipment, the chemists to the area of pharmaceuticals, and so on.

Our possibilities of becoming a medical superpower are weakened if other fields do not advance evenly with the medical profession. But if advances are not made in secondary and pre-university education, the bad habits acquired at this level will weaken us more. These bad habits could partially be explained during a certain period when we lacked textbooks and means of evaluating students. What we do not want is students who study only for exams. This is unacceptable. We must fight against this type of bad habit. We must get good grades, pay attention, and take notes, but most importantly we must study and prepare for exams by using our textbooks and class notes. Textbooks must be used; we do not know of any other way to study. Lately it is true there have been difficulties with some textbooks. We must make an effort to resolve this problem, so that the lack of textbooks does not cover up the bad habit of studying only from classroom notes. Anyone who has studied can understand that the idea of preparing for an exam only through class notes is inconceivable; this bad habit must be eradicated completely.

We must begin a fight in that direction, apart from the effort we must make to better the quality of teaching, especially in medicine, even though the situation is more complicated in this field.

Apparently, some pre-university students are better prepared for careers other than medicine. I understand that some students, who had very serious problems with pre-university chemistry courses, go and study biology and biochemistry.

We who recognize these problems have offered some ideas. For example, a pamphlet could be written in a practical and intelligible style for all pre-university students who could then familiarize themselves with the subjects that later became major obstacles and stumbling blocks after entering medical school. We must look for formulas which will help prepare these students, this new contingent that is being created upon entering medical school.

This problem came about [passage indistinct due to technical interruption] primary school, high school, and pre-university schools. I do not expect to accomplish it in all of them, but we must do it at the pre-universities. It is very important in all university careers, not only in medical school. Recently several very important measures have been implemented. The most important measure is a preparatory course for those leaving the military service. It is logical to see that, for any person leaving the military -- not having studied in 3 years and without any preparation -- no matter how much effort is made in the courses, it is impossible to pass the first or second year. I believe it is a good idea to have a 6-month to 1-year pre-university course for those who come from the military -- depending on the case because drafts and discharges from the military occur twice a year, which is why we have not been able to make it a uniform sequence. With a good, intensive 6-month course, I think many comrades will be able to prepare themselves for entering the medical field or another university career. We are very interested in discipline, political awareness, and interest in studying which our comrades from military service possess. I believe an intensive preparatory course is a very good idea, and it provides a realistic possibility for many young people from the military service to go into university courses.

As all of you know, entrance into the university for several of you was dependent on your academic record. Entrance must be controlled by academic records because we cannot give up the stimulus which it provides. Only a small percentage of you enrolled directly in the university. I believe that in the future an increasing number of persons leaving the military -- who graduated from high school but did not have a high grade point average -- will have a deserved opportunity to attend a university.

Another idea, which was put forth by the Ministry of Education and which we thought was very good, was to convert all vocational schools into pre-university schools. This would mean that the decision to enroll [in universities] would not be made at the 6th grade. The student at that age is still under family pressure to enroll in a vocational school, after which and during the remaining 6 years the student is assured of university entrance.

We have found in our experience with the university school of exact sciences that it has achieved excellence through competitive entrance exams. The students get most of the awards in contests and entrance is competitive.

We have studied this idea and, beginning in 1985, we will progressively suspend entrance into pre-universities from 6th grade because we have excellent facilities for seventh, eighth, and ninth graders that are being underutilized. Students can then enter prestigious vocational schools, based on their academic records and competitive test results -- we must take into account both factors so that students will feel stimulated to maintain high grades. Therefore, based on academic records, a student will have the right to take the competitive test. In this way we will convert excellent vocational schools into pre-university vocational schools -- with the pre-university exact science schools giving us an applicable experience. We would then have a large contingent of excellent students with a rigorous education from vocational schools which would allow us to increase the quality of pre-university schools. We must not limit ourselves to carrying out this work only in vocational schools, but in all of Cuba's pre-unversity schools.

It is evident that some preuniversity schools are different from others, some have a more vigorous, higher educational level than others. Here, one student described the difficulties he had in his preuniversity courses, and one of the female students, from Engels, described how her school works and the resulting confidence and security she obtained from the quality of teaching at Engels. I believe Engels is one of the best schools, if not the best vocational school. We must make all vocational schools equal to the Engels school. [applause] At Engels we have 24,000 prevocational students. We must continue to raise the standards of the rest of the prevocational schools in the country because universities feed from Cuba's vocational schools and pre-universities. In the area of quality, we can obtain a bigger return from this investment the revolution has made in this type of institution.

Another idea was that of doubling the number of students studying pre-university courses of exact sciences, and, not having only one pre-university school of exact science but three schools of this type. One school would be in the rural western area, one in central Cuba, and the other in the east, thereby providing three pre-university schools of exact sciences.

At present we have one pre-university school with 300 enrolled students. This number will increase to some 1,800 students with competitive entrance, if we continue on this road.

These ideas can help us increase the quality of university education and better prepare students through regular course work for university work.

We must also do battle against what we call conformism, referring to mediocre grades. We should also wage an energetic war against what someone here called conformism having a mediocre grade. I cannot imagine this attitude in a university student -- and, least of all, in a medical student. As you all know, medical students' rules are stricter than those of other university schools, and it should be that way because of the physician's responsibilities and because in his hands rest the health and lives of the people and citizens. Thus, we are forced to be stricter and more demanding with students of medicine and dentisty. That is the reason for more demanding rules.

I cannot imagine that there can be a medical student who only studies for examinations, someone who only makes the grade. I cannot imagine that. I cannot imagine a member of the vanguard detachment who does that. In the case of the detachment, there should be much stricter rules. The rules I am talking about were implemented when the contingents of medical students were organized. I cannot imagine a member of the detachment who does that. What confidence, what reliability in his ability can there be when he cares for a citizen, children, parents, brothers? What confidence can there be in one who lacks the will to study when he has such an important, sacred, vital mission? I cannot imagine a detachment student who settles for a grade three. I cannot imagine that, someone who is satisfied with a mediocre grade. I can imagine the detachment students studying constantly all year long. We must work on methods of evaluation so that the young man is forced to study all year long.

We should undertake an all-out struggle against that conformism, the case of the student who is satisfied with the mediocre grade three. Today I said this meeting is magnificent and these comrades are magnificent. But, I said, these comrades here represent the best... [changes thought] but do not represent.... [changes thought] It could be said that they do not have to represent all medical students, they represent the best, because they themselves are the best, or are among the best.

It would have been good if today we had here a group of those who are satisfied with a grade three. We could have selected them and brought them here to the meeting so that they could speak out and explain their problems and phenomena. [laughter]

They have not heard what has gone on here. The best students have been speaking about those problems. We should conduct an energetic battle against that conformism, against those studying for exams only, against those settling for a mediocre grade. We must make them understand that such an attitude cannot be the one of a student or professional we want to educate in our country.

If we have such a demand, including many people who have the aptitude -- I know of cases of those who did not qualify in experience, are now practicing as medium-level technicians, and later on will register after taking examinations.... [leaves thought unfinished] It hurts to know that just because he only had a grade of 89, he was not able to register and has to wait 2 or 3 years. There are others who have registered in other schools and wait for the opportunity that a good university record will give him the transfer to the School of Medicine. It is painful to see that one of those cases cannot register in the School of Medicine and, instead, someone else does and he turns out to be one of those who settles for a grade three, demonstrating that he does not have the aptitude.

The idea that we need physicians, many physicians, should not undermine in the least the principle of strictness. We have mathematical formulas to solve this problem. It is better to have a high percentage of dropouts than a high percentage of mediocre physicians. [applause] If we know how many physicians we need each year, if we know the percentage of those graduating with high marks, we can solve the problem even if it becomes necessary to increase the number of those registering -- even though this should not be the way to solve it. We should create better habits from the secondary and pre-university levels. We should improve education. We should make a better selection, much better selection. We should do a better job in stimulating the individual's aptitude.

That is the first step we should take. In addition, once they have registered, we should maintain the principle of strictness without being frightened by the total number of those graduating. It is better, even less costly, to do the best job registering so that the number of academic mortalities and dropouts are reduced later on. But, we should not be afraid. Anything else is better than to graduate a physician who does not have the quality we seek.

That is what is important. We have the seating capacity and are creating more, a lot, enough, more than enough to register as many as necessary. But we must not abandon, under any circumstances, the required principle and not neglect the selection process at all, and what was pointed out here, which is to amplify and develop interest in public health.

We also mentioned the need -- very logical -- to improve the training of medium-level public health technicians. This is very important. We have worried about this for some time. I know that a number of technological health institutes have been built and that more are being built, and that many are registering in them. But we are yearning for the possibility that nursing schools can register not ninth grade but twelfth grade students. For example, studies are being conducted to determine how to tackle this problem and achieve the goals of better training and preparation. We will have to see what steps can be taken along these lines. But we must do this, and we know it.

We are also encouraging movement towards a college degree in nursing. This year about 500 were registered. This movement must incorporate the masses as they were incorporated into the teachers' movement, and we can see that we have a large number of teachers. We should have an increasing numbers of nurses studying for a college degree in nursing. [clears throat] I am not losing my voice. Although I do not know how it is called, I know in some places it is called a frog in one's throat. [laughter] My throat is well, don't worry.

If we are to become a medical power, we must be a nursing power, a health technicians power, and we should not rest until we achieve these goals. We have also made that point here.

A great effort has been made in recent years in relation to the development of our public health and training of physicians and dentists. First, the detachment was created, and now is an institution the fruits of which are palpable. It is encouraging to note that each new contingent surpasses the preceding one. The second surpasses the first, and it is said that the third is going to surpass the second. Then we have to try to get the fourth to surpass the third, the fifth and fourth, the sixth and fifth, and so on, progressing year after year. It should work out this way if we are really successful in the effort we were talking about, the effort to perfect training and raise its quality year after year. If quality improves, the number of students in the detachment will increase.

The third contingent will consist of 5,000 students drawn from the ranks of pre-university students, to which will be added from 250 to 300 from the 20th Order [la Orden 20]. So, the number of students registering in the School of Medicine in the coming school year will be about 5,500. And the capacity of the schools continues to increase. In 1985, the number will be greater; in 1986, bigger still. And by 1986 we will have completed all the schools of medical sciences throughout Cuba. And there will be smaller schools at new important hospitals that will be built.

The Mario Munoz Advanced Movement [Movimiento de Avanzada] has had very good results too. As we said on another occasion, we have no complaints about university students who are in the last years of their studies. Their conduct has been excellent. They were not selected to enter the university. They selected themselves after registering. The most studious, the most disciplined, those with the greatest aptitude remained. This has been demonstrated in the call-ups we made to resolve, for example, the problems of internationalist missions and in their total willingness to enter specialties which were understaffed, etc. Virtually no call has been made to which they did not fully respond. Those are the students of the advanced movement, the students in their last years of university studies, who have had a magnificent attitude.

These are the students who are going to join the ranks of public health professionals -- physicians and dentists -- in the next 4 years. The next 8,000 or 10,000 medical doctors will come from these students. The detachment will not begin to produce graduates until the year 1988, the first of the detachment to graduate. But the 1984-87 graduates will come from the students who were already in the medical schools before the detachment was organized, from those students who had selected themselves and have proven themselves to be of excellent quality. And for this too we should work so that the students of medical sciences will be better each successive year. This is asking a lot considering how good you already are. I do not know whether in some other part of the world -- and I say this without chauvinism of any kind -- whether in some other part of the world there is a medical school student body like the ones that our nation now has. [prolonged applause]

This has been reflected in this meeting. If we had foreign visitors -- from Latin America, the developed capitalistic countries, from anywhere -- they would have observed this meeting and possibly they would thought they were with people from another world. [laughter] What kind of students are these, speaking of evaluations, graduating classes, studies, discipline, rigorousness, etc, etc. All this that we have spoken about.

I would say that this reflected spirit places us at the highest level as regards the quality of our students. It gives us great hope for the future. Yes, we know that there are difficulties to overcome, that we have to improve all our courses and teaching methods. Starting last year, we sent commissions of professors to the best universities of the seven countries that are the most highly developed in medical sciences to study their study programs, their methods, their bibliographies, their textbooks. We acquired mountains of books and materials from the best universities of the nations most advanced in medicine in the world. We are working with all these in preparation for drawing up our future curricula because we have to draw up new programs. It is going to take at least 2 years to assimilate properly, digest well, tropicalize well, and Cubanize all that experience and then prepare our programs. It is very important. Yes, we have to perfect all these things. We are going to have better programs, with students even more rigorously selected, with even more experienced professors, and with superior methodology. And with our efforts, our struggle for quality, we will surpass much of what we have said here. This opens fabulous perspectives for our country in the field of medicine.

A special effort has been made to provide medical students with books because we remember the problems we had with textbooks in the medical schools when the development of the detachment began. There were no books and the few there were had to be returned. The student was able to only keep his notes, which were his bibliography. The decision was made to make a special effort. The Ministry of Culture and the managers of the large printing shops of this nation were asked to cooperate, to undertake the noble task of printing books for medical students. We knew, of course, that the problem existed at all the schools but we said we would at least start here. And the formula that will make them good and appropriate here will help us to do the job we have to do at all other universities.

Then they made an effort to have the textbooks by the beginning of the school term. In addition, the idea of making it possible for the students to get the textbooks emerged. This was not an economic problem of making a profit from them, because those textbooks are sold at cost. The idea was to have better care for that textbook, the best care. It was agreed that the students could buy the textbooks and keep them. It was even necessary to bring the problem before the National Assembly in case it would violate a constitutional rule dealing with free textbooks. In the end, it was interpreted that it referred to the textbooks' free use, not the property of the textbooks. Thus, if the textbooks are given to the students and they are allowed to have ownership of the textbooks, not just the use, so that they are able to begin their own libraries -- they have to begin their libraries not only with textbooks, but also with reference books as soon as they become students. Each of them has to begin a library. Independent of this, we will have to have a great library of science and technology at the Academy of Sciences, in addition to the Education Ministry's library.

We have to improve all these information sources. An effort was also made to provide books not only to students, but also to physicians, who were lacking many textbooks. Many textbooks were imported and were sold at a very low cost, in some cases, to just a few individuals. Such was the case of the books on vascular surgery.

They were so expensive that we decided to give them to the specialists in vascular surgery, because they would have gone bankrupt if we had charged what those books cost us. They were just a few, so we decided to give them away.

These books are very expensive, which is why it is necessary that the Culture Ministry cooperate with us in the noble task of printing the books we need. It is not a case of an illegal act but a legitimate case of internationalization of medical knowledge. If you try to buy them, the country would not have enough money to buy all those books. For example, 20,000 books were printed of "(Cohn's) Therapy." We did not print more for fear that many physicians would appear in addition to those we have. They could buy the book and begin practicing medicine. Well, 20,000 were printed, and the very minimum cost of the book is $100 and here they were sold for 20 pesos. Some foreign visitors were here and asked: How can they be sold for 20 pesos? How is it possible? Yes, it is possible. In socialism it is possible. Absolutely nothing has been lost. [applause] They were sold at cost. No one was robbed and no one lost. That book was made accessible to the doctors. There are tens of titles that are in print for doctors and at prices practically equal to cost. That is, they are making a series of editions for doctors.

We have to do this with the other faculties. We have begun with medicine. It is necessary to continue through the six technologies, learning from this experience.

Therefore, it is not necessary for a person to become sad if his neighbor receives something, as long as there is the hope that later, he may receive it too. There are problems that cannot be solved all at once. It cannot be done, there are not enough resources. But it is very good when the solution of a problem begins with one part, because we must apply this experience of giving books to students in the Faculty of Medicine, in its entirety, to the other technical faculties. I do not know whether we will give them the books or not, but the matter of the books is immaterial and we have to apply the general principles.

Another very important item -- a true revolution in the training of doctors -- was the conversion of municipal and rural hospitals to teaching hospitals. It is a true revolution that has expanded the possibilities for training doctors in our country, but no other country has it. And it was very satisfying to hear the advantages of that type of education, and it will have more advantages when, in those municipal and rural hospitals, there are specialists who have become teachers -- specialist-teachers. That process will continue with the building of new hospitals so that, in the future, we will have a hospital in every municipality. There will be over a hundred municipal hospitals, which will also serve for the training of medical personnel. And each new hospital that is built, wherever it be, will be a teaching hospital -- including teaching clinics -- in which these concepts are progressing with the institution of family practice.

Work has also been done in recent years to solve the problem of the lack of specialists. Some specialists are scarce everywhere in the world. A strong program has been undertaken in the training of orthopedists, surgeons, pediatricians, obstetricians, internists, and so on. We know which specialties are short of personnel and how great the shortage is. A lot of work has been done. The policy of vertical internships was continued as a temporary necessity. In all the specialties in which we are still short of personnel, persons were incorporated who were studying pediatrics, microbiology -- in short, all these specialties -- anesthesiology, radiology, and so on. This is a solution dictated by the circumstances. But we aspire to a future in which all medical students will do a rotating internship -- all of them -- so that they will receive better integrated medical training. All will rotate.

We also considered those specialties that require special skills, above all special manual skills. I hope that those who are going to be surgeons begin operating at the pre-university level or in the secondary schools, even if it has to be on rabbits, because there are specialties that require special manual skills. Even these students, when they reach the sixth year, will have to do their internship because surgeons must know medicine.

And later, with all the specialties that require special skills, we will follow the path of the direct residency -- ophthalmologists, surgeons -- as with those that are in some way a little distant from general medicine, such as radiologists, anesthesiologists. We are classifying those that in the future will have to be studied in direct residency. The other specialties will not be studied this way.

Regarding the different specialties, we should bear in mind the fact that accumulated demand has required a great effort in the training of specialists. In the future we will not have such a great need for specialists -- for the training of specialists. It will become necessary to reduce the number of students studying these traditional specialties. The number of surgeons is limited by the demand for surgeons. The possibilities of working at their profession [changes thought], if there are twice as many surgeons, they will work half as much. They will lose their skills.

What our country needs is what international cooperation requires. But there will be limits. We have to start getting used to this idea now. It will be necessary to make a more rigorous selection of the students entering those specialties. And their academic records will have to be considered. Because if there are 15 openings and 100 applicants, the best students of all must be selected. Nevertheless, and fortunately, there will be a very valuable, very important, very prestigious specialty that we can open to masses of students because it is for the type of doctor that is needed everywhere: the integral general physician [medico general integral]. One of the ideas that was developed with regard to this medical revolution was the idea of the specialist in integrated general medicine. Why use the general practitioner to refer to the doctor who did not study anything else and who is differentiated from the specialist? Of course, there are internists. But if you are going to send a physician to a factory, to a rural farming community, what kind of physician will you send? Will you send an anesthesiologist? Will you send a surgeon who will not even have a place to operate? Will you send a radiologist? No. You have to send a specialist in integrated general medicine who is familiar with obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, hygiene, psychology, and from what I can see, he will have to learn a little about dentistry also, a little bit anyway. [laughter and applause]

The program for integrated general medicine was drawn up. We have 30 studying in different provinces, and the program is difficult. I do not want to discourage anyone. To the contrary, I want to encourage you. But I am warning you that the program for specialists in integrated general medicine is difficult. If we send a physician to a youth camp, whom do we send? If we send a physician to a pre-university institute, whom do we send? On internationalist missions -- although they need specialists, surgeons, pediatricians, orthopedists, and so on -- fundamentally, they need the integral general physician. Without any doubt, in the future there will be an evolution towards this type of physician, whom we are going to call family doctors. At the present time he is known as the 120-family doctor and we calculate five persons to a family. Families in Havana average fewer than five members. The families are smaller. We calculate one physician for every 600 citizens. But we are not going to call him the 600-person doctor. We can call him the 120-family doctor or we can call him family doctor.

This type of physician is the most commonly known. The idea of this specialty makes it possible for all physicians in the country to be specialists, and to have the designation, the social prestige that goes with the classification of specialist, as well as the importance that being a specialist implies. Thus, those who are not surgeon, pediatrician, orthopedic, etc, could be specialists in general medicine [medicina general integral]. In my judgment, this is the type of physician that will play a fundamental role in the health of our people.

As this was a new idea, it had to be put to the test, even though we were sure of the results. However, the results have been much better than expected. For this purpose, the first 10 physicians were selected. The truth of the matter is that it was a good selection because that is a very good group of comrades. They were not mediocre students, or anything like it. They are comrades having a great spirit and a great talent. They began the program. They were guinea pigs, the first family doctors. It has turned out to be a real revolution -- the admiration felt by the people; the security felt by the people because they are there; the services the people receive; the problems those physicians are solving. This is not only happening in rural medicine. It is not necessary to go to the Sierra Maestra or the Turquino mountainside to find people with problems who do not go to the hospital or polyclinic.

They have found many people who were not going to the hospitals or polyclinics, persons who did not observe vaccination programs, persons who would go to see about one problem and another more serious would be found. For example, they would go to see about coughing and a tumor would be found, or any other problem. Some of the comrades told me that some persons were afraid of the doctor because they would go for one thing and another would be found. Well, all people in the country have that type of fear, including doctors themselves who do not want to see a doctor, generally. They have made it possible for many old people to go out and walk, people who would not leave their homes. Following a policy aimed at ending sedentariness, obesity, they have made it possible for many persons with those conditions to run. They have created a real revolution which has developed enormous interest among the rest of the people who are waiting for their doctors.

They receive the neighbors at their offices and, in addition, visit them at home. They even take them to the polyclinic or the hospital, according to the seriousness of the illness. When we asked who paid for those taxi or bus fares, they would say it was paid by them out of their salaries. This problem will have to be solved. They will have to carry a notebook to keep track of their expenses. We trust them, we do not need anyone to keep track of that. The physician will keep track of the expenses. He becomes an accountant and will be fully trusted. [applause]

They follow the cases when they are in the hospital, how long they stay in the hospital, when they are discharged from the hospital. They have uncovered numerous problems. They were able to make diagnoses of the cases, keep records on cardiac problems, diabetes, asthma, hypertension, etc. They have a clinical report on each area resident, including neighbors not residing in their area. This occurs because someone in his area wants to bring his mother from another area. They told me that a girl wanted to bring her boyfriend. But, you know there are only 10 of them.

But next year, in that same area of Lawton, all the area of the local polyclinic will be covered, and 39 family doctors will be assigned there. In addition, there will be a doctor for the school and another for the hospital. In the future, we hope to have doctors in work centers and schools with 500 or 600 students.

The citizens will be cared for by a network of polyclinics, hospitals, specialized centers, medical research institutes, and in addition will be cared for at work centers, schools, factories, and place of residence. This not only solves many problems and contributes to healthy conditions, but also gives a feeling of security to the citizen. The importance that the people attribute to this is demonstrated by the love, respect, cooperation they offer to family doctors.

We estimate that in the next 15 years, some 20,000 doctors will be active in this type of service. We estimate that in the next 15 years, there will be some 30,000 in the network, some 20,000 as family doctors, some 4,000 or 5,000 in work centers, schools, aboard ships, some 8,000 or 10,000 -- these are estimates which could change -- in international cooperation. Not only this, when we have 65,000 we will need 10,000 more, what for? We will need them so that all physicians will have 1 year for studying and further training every 7 years at least. [applause]

That includes 1 year of sabbatical leave for each doctor. We will have to wait, though, because we do not have 10,000 doctors. Before we have that many doctors, we must first satisfy other demands, but at least that is the goal. In Cuba there will be 75,000 positions open for doctors. What if the future demands more positions? These figures are only calculations. It is possible that by the year 2000 or before, the number of medical students will decrease. But, at that point, universities that are presently used as medical schools will be used for providing additional medical training. Some 3,000 doctors must graduate annually in the future to reach 75,000. And, if this number is too great, we will enjoy students who are qualified as teachers in the medical profession and provide them with additional training. Therefore, the road to follow is very clear -- to teach or work in the medical field.

What do we aspire to? We want family practitioners to be specialists in general medicine. At the start of their university studies, several medical students had planned to study other specialties. We told them to study the specialty of their choice, and these doctors were the first ones to participate in the experiment. Next year, we hope to have 228 doctors in this experiment -- it continues to be experimental, although we are absolutely convinced of the results. General practitioners will go to rural areas, factories, schools, and in every province there will be a family practitioner. Some 500 medical students from the 1985 graduating class will be included in this program, and we will try to send doctors who want to study general medicine. The number of students who are interested in this field is increasing. We hope that these family practitioners, after the first year, will be able to begin their specialty courses -- as specialists in general medicine after their first year.

Sometime around the year 1977 or 1978 [as heard], no later than this time, the possibility of studying other specialties will decrease, as I have explained. The need for specialists will decrease. What have we planned for 1978 [as heard]? First, when the first contingent of medical doctors graduates, a selection will be made of those who will go to the Piti Fajar Rural Medicine Detail. Second, all those who will do their specialty internship at once must be selected, and everyone will be on a rotating basis. Under this system, the students will come out with a more complete medical background.

A number of students will go directly to their specialty's internship. The rest of the students, we believe, can gain experience in family practice. Everyone, including the person who will go on to study obstetrics, internal medicine, or pediatrics, will first be a general practitioner, for at least 3 years. Why should you do this? Because, comrades, this experience is unique.

Even rural hospital doctors do not have this experience. Rural hospitals have doctors with much experience, specialists, and so on, so the doctor does not face problems alone. One of the most interesting aspects of this experience is that the doctor faces the patient and the problem, alone. Today, the student is a recent graduate, but tomorrow he will be a specialist in general medicine, although this is in the future. This experience will be of extraordinary value to the doctor.

Several subjects should be strengthened at the university level. There is a need to know more about angiology, because there are many angiology problems among the population. Students have said that they studied this course for only 2 weeks or something like that in their entire time at the university. This then becomes a problem. It is logical that those who will become pediatricians -- not only those who will specialize in general medicine but those who will specialize in many other branches -- go through the experience of being a family practitioner. This experience will prepare them for the future, when they become specialists in obstetrics, pediatrics, internal medicine, etc.

These are some of the subjects that have been under discussion. Without a doubt, the experience of being a general practitioner is rich in results and in perspective. I believe that we are the only nation in the world that is carrying out this concept in medicine. I have no doubt that in the future other nations will adopt this practice, because it constitutes the most perfect network for keeping people healthy.

But, it must be added that these family doctors observe a special and rigorous code of ethics. Why? Because of the access they have to the family circle, the confidence the family has in them. This is so to such a degree that they will have to have some knowledge of psychology and psychiatry. In a certain way, many families ask them for advice on problems. In reality, they become professionals with great influence, great prestige, and they make a great contribution to the health and well-being of the people. Undoubtedly, I believe that this will contribute to prolonging the people's life-span, and we will be among the first in the world in that field. In this task, the family doctors will play a fundamental role.

In recent years, there have been some activities and efforts in the field of health which are of great importance. For example, we now have intensive care units for children. This emerged after the dengue epidemic. There was only one pediatric intensive care unit in a pediatric hospital, the (Borras) Hospital. From that moment on, a program was organized to develop intensive care units superior to the one at the (Borras). The one at the (Borras) had to be redone so that it would have cubicles for cases of infectious diseases. We now have 29 in operation and 2 under construction, a total of 31 intensive care units.

But, the most important thing of all is the results we have obtained. Since their creation, those intensive care units have taken care of 13,328 children. The morality rate recorded by those units is 7.9. It is impossible to estimate how many children would have died without these units, but it could be 25 or 30, no one knows. These intensive care units have already saved thousands of lives. It could be said that for each child who unfortunately died because of the dengue epidemic, the intensive care units have already saved at least 20 of them. This is also something which gives peace of mind to all families in the country.

Recently, delegates representing all intensive care units met to examine their experiences and they are greatly encouraged and excited about the work they are doing and the results.

This has contributed to improved medical services and has helped to reduce the child mortality rate, children less than 1 year old, as well as children of preschool and school age. Those mortality rates were considerably lower in 1983.

The technology of diagnostic ultrasonics has been introduced in all of the countries' main hospitals. This represents a great advance. All optical facilities have been improved; they are practically new. A shop producing lenses from the raw material has been acquired which represents great savings for the country. It has been acquired and is under construction at a cost of several millions. This makes it possible for us to save 80 percent of the expenses in foreign currency. The cost of the raw material is 20 percent of the finished lens at the spectacle frame shop. The waiting time for the finished product has been considerably reduced, and we expect it will be further reduced.

The operating rooms for cardiovascular surgery are being developed at the Hermanos Ameijeiras and Carlos J Finlay Hospitals as well as at the William Soler Hospital for children's cardiovascular surgery. There will be operating rooms for cardiovascular surgery at hospitals in the central and eastern parts of the country. We will have five hospitals equipped for cardiovascular surgery. The allocations have been approved, the equipment has been purchased, the personnel are in training, and the units are being built.

Considerable progress has been made in prenatal genetics. Several books have been published and further progress is under way.

Large investments are being made in the field of public health. A large part of those investments have been assigned to the Schools of Medical Sciences. Construction projects are under way in the country's 14 provinces, not counting Havana Province. [as heard] The School of Medicine is opening extension campuses in all provinces, some have one, others two. Santiago de Cuba Province will have two, Holguin two, Villa Clara two. This year's investments in health projects -- equipment not included -- amounts to 80 million pesos. This is considerably more than in 1983.

All health projects are closely followed; we know where thre are deficiencies and where there is progress. We know that the people in Matanzas Province will have water supply and other types of problems during the next school term, and ways to remedy the problems will have to be found. Nevertheless, many provinces will have new facilities next term.

Four new pediatric hospitals are under construction in the cities of Marianao, Sancti Spiritus, Ciego de Avila, and Bayamo. The Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital is each day gaining more world prestige. The Calixto Garcia Hospital, as was mentioned before, will be remodeled and will become another Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital. A medical school with a capacity for 1,500 students will be built at the Claixto Garcia Hospital, this old school where so many doctors have been trained and where a large number of the Ameijeiras personnel worked. Construction of many hospital clinics with surgical facilities continues around the nation and more are planned. In the next 5 years, a new hospital will be built in the eastern part of Havana and a new hospital clinic with surgical facilities will be built in Marianao. We hope that both facilities will be similar in nature to the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital.

Studies are under way on medical research facilities and plans are being made so that these facilities be devoted entirely to research. Currently, researchers are working in several hospitals, many of which do not provide the research facilities. We are looking for ways to assemble a large number of research facilities in one place. We are looking at these problems and some of the possible solutions.

In research, as all of you know, we are producing new medicines such as interferon. The facility producing interferon was built rapidly and the research in this area is developing; it has a high production rate. Many types of diseases have been cured with interferon. Acute hepatitis is practically cured within 48 hours as well as other types of viral diseases. Interferon has also been shown to help alleviate certain types of cancer, especially those which seem to be viral in origin.

A world class research facility is under construction for the study of genetic engineering and biotechnology. Construction began the beginning of January and it will go into operation on 30 June 1986, at the latest. The personnel are being trained. Research into these areas has good prospects for the future as a science that is truly revolutionary. Needless to say, many medicines such as insulin will be able to be produced by people using bacteria and not through beeg as we do at present. Construction has begun on the Tropical Medical Institute and on the National Microbiology Laboratory. Also under construction is a laboratory for pathogen-free animals. These animals are used for experiments and for producing vaccines and so on.

A new vaccine plant is under construction and will be capable of producing 14 types of vaccines. Two new factories for building new medical equipment are under construction. With the building of this plant, Cuba will be able to produce ultrasound and X-ray equipment and so on. This is why I said that electric, machine, industrial, and other types of engineers are so important. By building this equipment, Cuba will be able to save 80 percent of what it would cost in foreign currency. This is the difference between building equipment and importing it. Plants for producing this equipment are being built in Havana and Santiago de Cuba. Some new types of valuable equipment have also been developed. We have the potential capability of developing in the medical industry to build medical equipment for our necessities as well as for export. Work is also going on in the pharmaceutical industry.

A special project is currently under way in dentistry. Some 500 dental facilities in Cuba were visited and all problems in this area were studied, whether related to materials, equipment, aerators [aerotores], and so on. Right now it is possible that all of us know a little bit about dentistry. A plant for making false teeth is projected. Studies on the problems in prosthetics are under way because there are many cases of people in many areas having to wait a long time. The same thing that was done with optics will be done with dentistry, equipment, new technologies, and so on.

Studies are also under way on all specialities to try and find areas of strength, and make them stronger, and our weak points, and what to do to strengthen these areas. An earnest study is being conducted in each speciality.

All these factors, which certainly cannot move forward isolated from the rest of the country and cannot be separated from the improvement of education, development of schools of technology, an development of the country, contribute to the possibility of making our country what has been called a medical superpower; that is, occupying one of the highest pinnacles in the world on health matters. This is one of the things our people most appreciate. What place will we occupy? We must not resign ourselves to occupying only a fifth or sixth place, we must move to the first place in the world in the public health field. [applause]

We congratulate our comrade youths and comrades from the Federation of University Students [FEU] for the excellent work they have done and the process undertaken by medical students.

I believe this experience can be useful in other university careers and in other areas, too. What has been discussed here today confirms, strengthens, consolidates our conviction that all just, noble, and humane goals established in the medical field for the happiness and well-being of our people will be achieved. After this meeting, you will surely go back, filled with satisfaction, to meet with your colleagues throughout the country, to talk with them, give them an account of this meeting, and convey the impressions of the importance of the quality of this meeting and all activities in which you have participated during these days.

We, for our part, will leave this meeting feeling very encouraged, highly satisfied, and very optimistic on the quality you have, the extraordinary doctors who will come out of our medical schools, and about the future of our nation in the medical field.

Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

ADN REPORTS ON CASTRO, WEISS TALKS IN HAVANA

LD171238 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0849 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Havana, 17 May (ADN) -- The steady and dynamic development of relations between the GDR and Cuba are playing an important role in preserving and securing peace in view of the immediate imperialist threat. This was said by Cuban state and party leader Fidel Castro and GDR Deputy Chairman Gerhard Weiss during a talk in Havana Wednesday. Weiss is leading a delegation to the 12th meeting of the GDR-Cuba Economic Commission.

Both sides agreed that economic cooperation between the two countries in accordance with bilateral agreements and multilateral agreements within CEMA has great benefit for the national economies of the two countries and for the further industrialization of Cuba. Fidel Castro stressed the significance of economic cooperation with other socialist countries, especially the GDR and the USSR, in view of the imperialist embargo. He emphasized the need for long-term planning and coordination in cooperation between the CEMA countries in all central areas of the economy as well as in science and technology.

Also on Wednesday, the GDR deputy chairman opened an exhibition about the Cuban ceramics industry on the Island of Youth, in the development of which the GDR played a central part.

FIDEL CASTRO RECEIVES RED CROSS OFFICIALS

FL171112 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received Messrs (Andre Pastier), general delegate of the Red Cross International Committee for Latin America, and (Jean Pierre Hook), director of operational activities of the Red Cross. The two Red Cross officials provided a detailed explanation of the humanitarian programs of the Red Cross International Committee in various troubled areas and of the work done by the Red Cross.

GDR'S CONSTRUCTION MINISTER VISITS CIENFUEGOS

FL171944 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Delegation leaders participating in the 57th meeting of CEMA construction ministers attended the inauguration ceremony of two monuments built to Karl Marx and Jose Marti at the Karl Marx cement factory in Cienfuegos Province. GDR Minister of Contruction Wolfgang Junker cut the ribbon inaugurating the monuments which symbolize everlasting friendship between Cuba and the GDR. Cuban cement workers and German experts from the factory were also present.

Cuban Central Committee member Humberto Miguel Fernandez, first secretary of the party provincial committee in Cienfuegos Province, emphasized that the inauguration of this project provides encouragement and obligates the cooperative to be more efficient and productive.

CABRIZAS MEETS WITH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS

FL171240 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1110 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Moscow -- Cuba's Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas today met in Moscow with counterparts Peter Veress from Hungary, Khristo Khristov from Bulgaria, and Nikolay Komarov [as heard] from the Soviet Union.

HART DISCUSSES ROLE OF SOCIALIST INTELLECTUALS

FL171744 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Budapest -- Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos has said that socialist intellectuals should take the offensive in the contemporary ideological struggle with a qualitative jump of historical proportions. When he spoke at the twelfth meeting of culture ministers from socialist countries that is being held in Hungary, Hart stressed the need to take concrete measures to strengthen the role of socialist intellectuals worldwide, especially that of young socialist intellectuals.

MALMIERCA MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALI

For Malian coverage of the visit of Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and his wife to Bamako, including his talks with officials there, see the Mali subsection of the West Africa section of the 17 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, and subsequent issues.

FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA VISITS IVORY COAST

For an AFP report on the visit to Abidjan by Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, including his talks with Ivorian President Houphouet-Boigny, and a meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Simeon Ake at a dinner held in his honor, see the Ivory Coast subsection of the West Africa section of the 18 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN WASHINGTON NOTED

PA180223 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid stressed his differences with the Reagan dministration during his speech before the U.S. Congress, in which he also rejected a military solution to the Central American conflict. In his speech before members of the two houses of Congress, President Reagan's cabinet, the Supreme Court of Justice, and diplomatic corps, De la Madrid stressed that it is necessary that international law be respected, for only anarchy and the arbitrary domination of those who can impose their will by force would result otherwise.

De la Madrid expressed confidence that a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict can be found through the Contadora Group. He pointed out that the region's current situation is the result of economic problems, social injustice, and political backwardness. Miguel de la Madrid said in Washington: We disagree with the idea the Central American conflict is a part of the so-called East-West confrontation, and that structural changes in the region must be regarded as a threat to other nations in the hemisphere.

The Mexican president, who will conclude his visit to the United States tomorrow, added taht Latin America is awakening to its own identity and requires full acceptance of its pluralism. De la Madrid also noted that the unilateral increase in interest rates is unacceptable, since it nullifies the Latin American countries' best efforts to make economic adjustments.

COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA SIGN 6-POINT AGREEMENT

PA172016 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Miguel D'Escoto and Carlos Jose Gutierrez, foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Costa Rica respectively, signed a 6-point agreement in Panama City to supervise their common border and prevent incidents and tensions there. The document was signed after a meeting that lasted 6 hours in the presence of Panamanian President Jorge Illueca and the four deputy foreign ministers of the Contadora Group. In addition, the formation of a supervisory and prevention commission that is to be set up along the Nicaragua and Costa Rica border was announced. It will be comprised of a representative from Managua and another from San Jose, as well as delegates from the Contadora Grou This commission will investigate events that could lead to tension or incidents along the border between the two countries.

2 EX-PRESIDENTS LEAD COSTA RICAN PEACE MARCH

FL171430 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Thousands of Costa Ricans marched in San Jose to demand peace and to condemn war in the area. The demonstration was an overwhelming rejection by the people of the militaristic U.S. policy toward Central America. Among the thousands of people who marched were U.S. youths residing in the country, who condemned White House political interference in the area. Former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres headed the march along with another former president, Daniel Oduber, and the minister of public security, Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon. Figueres advocated neutrality for the nation and condemned the military campaign that is currently taking place in Costa Rica. University Rector Fernando Duran demanded the removal of those collaborators with President Luis Alberto Monge who would not hesitate to push the nation toward war. He also demanded true neutrality.

ELECTORAL CHALLENGE REJECTED IN EL SALVADOR

PA171359 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] CCE [Central Electoral Council] of El Salvador has rejected an appeal presented by the ultrarightist ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] challenging the results that declared Jose Napoleon Duarte, the Christian Democratic candidate, the winner in the presidential elections on 6 May. Roberto D'Aubuisson, the ARENA candidate, had requested that the results of the elections be annulled because, he alleged, the vote counting had not been done in accordance with the law, and 60,000 votes had been lost. Today, Jose Napoleon Duarte will receive his credentials as president, and next Monday he will be received by U.S. head of state Ronald Reagan.

Other news reports state that Colonel Fernando Berrios, former minister of health, was gunned down in the capital of San Salvador. As yet, no one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

HAVANA CITES U.S. SHIPMENT, SALVADORAN ACTIONS

PA170457 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] Armed FMLN columns have attacked an Army post on the bridge over the Acelhuate River, 30 km from San Salvador. The guerrillas fought for over an hour with a squad belonging to the so-called Civil Defense, a paramilitary organization created in the rural areas by the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which suffered an undetermined number of casualties in this clash.

In San Lorenzo, San Vicente Department, guerrilla sappers dynamited a high-tension power pylon, causing blackouts throughout the department. Meanwhile, small plane from the regime's Air Force machinegunned several cantons in Cuscatlan and Cabanas Departments. Other Air Force planes bombed the southern area of Guazapa Hill, where San Jose Guayabal and Ramirez are located. As a result, many civilians were killed.

Other reports indicate that a shipment of weapons from the United States arrived at the Salvadoran port of Acajutla, on the southwestern coast. Some 20 trucks transported the shipment, which included bombs, grenades, and ammunition for several of the Salvadoran regime's military installations. The shipment was brought to El Salvador by the American Titan, a U.S. ship.

PLANS FOR U.S. DEPOTS IN HONDURAS CLAIMED

PA170454 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 May 84

[Text] In a report for the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Defense has revealed that Washington is planning to build depots to store weapons and fuel in Honduras for arming and supplying U.S. planes in case of an eventual military intervention in Central America. The plan is contained in a report presented to Congress in which the Pentagon lists the military installations to be built during the next fiscal year in Honduras, at an estimated cost of $8.7 billion [as heard]. The Pentagon referred to these new military installations on Honduran territory as special depots to store additional reserves, given the possibility of shipments of U.S. tactical aviation equipment to Central America.

Thus far, the U.S. Government has officially announced that all U.S. military construction in Honduras is linked only to the two countries' joint military maneuvers.

Taft Cited on Plans

PA171625 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] The United States believes that Honduras can replace Panama as the base for 9,000 Southern Command trooops in case of a military intervention in Central America, according to the Pentagon. As the expiration of the Panama Canal Treaties draws nearer, we have to consider alternatives to keep our forces in the area to protect American interests, William Taft, U.S. under secretary of defense, said. Taft presented the Senate a Pentagon study that requests $8.7 billion [as heard] for the 1985 military budget for the construction of ammunition and arms depots and aircraft installations in Honduras. The document specifies that the increase in the war materiel in Honduras is designed to reduce the need to transport heavy equipment in case Washington decides to invade any Central American country.

The United States will continue the spy flights over the whole Central American area from bases in Honduras, Taft said. He added that the present U.S. maneuvers in the area will be extended until 1988.

NICARAGUA SCORES 'MILITARIZATION' OF PUERTO RICO

PA180340 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The growing militarization of Puerto Rico could render this island a springboard for attacks on Latin American countries, particularly Nicaragua and El Salvador. This statement was made by Javier Chamorro, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United Nations, who also summarized his recent protests over the participation of members of the so-called Puerto Rican National Guard in CIA actions against the Sandinist revolution. Chamorro noted: We have reports on CIA plans to use Puerto Rican territory and troops in specialized operations against Nicaragua.

Chamorro added that exercises in preparation for a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua could be taking place in Puerto Rico, just as took place in preparation for the invasion of Grenada.

Meanwhile, in a letter sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party rejected the use of Puerto Rican territory as a base for training, military rehearsals, and attacks. At the same time, it said that the notion that the "Ocean Venture-84" military maneuvers were a rehearsal for a massive invasion of Nicaragua is well-founded.

NICARAGUAN PEOPLE STAND UP TO U.S. 'OFFENSIVE'

FL171334 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Imperialist aggressiveness against Nicaragua has increased in recent weeks. William Casey, chief of the CIA, had to admit that his agency laid about 600 mines in Nicaraguan ports. At the same time, the activities of counterrevolutionary bands increased across the Honduran and Costa Rican borders. In additin to these are attacks by pirate speedboats, helicopters, and enemy airplanes against Nicaraguan ships, ports, and regions. The terrorist activities against Nicaragua have become Washington's greatest offensive against the Sandinist revolution. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan people are not intimidated and struggle daily for their right to live.

EXPLOSIONS, NEW ANTITERROR LAW REPORTED IN CHILE

PA171735 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] News reports from Santiago, Chile, state that at least 20 explosions of considerable force were reported in that city on Tuesday, and police have undertaken an extensive search for the culprits. One of the bombs went off in the municipality of Quinta Normal. Eight explosions occurred at different bank branches, while about a dozen bombs hit electric pylons, causing blackouts in some areas of the capital.

Other news reports state that the Chilean regime has approved the so-called Antiterrorist Bill, which seeks to more forcefully repress the popular protests against the dictatorship instituted in 1973. The new law, that will be signed into law by General Augusto Pinochet, was labeled by the opposition and church officials as an action that will increase repression.

The Supreme Court of Chile confirmed the sentence handed down against Manuel Almeida, the president of the Chilean People's Democratic Movement, who must report periodically to the court over the next 2 years, since he was accused of violating the state's national security law.